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AGRI-NEWS

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January 1, 1990

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Setting direction challenge of '90s

One of the most important challenges facing Alberta in 1990, and in the new decade, will be setting the course for the province's vital agriculture industry says Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley.

"As producers, processors, marketers, researchers, consumers and governments, we all have a big stake in how agriculture evolves. We all eat and one-third of Alberta jobs depend on agriculture, so we're all involved in the industry. Agriculture really is everybody's business," says Mr. Isley.

During a year-end interview following his return from a national agricultural policy conference in Ottawa, he pointed out determining agriculture's future direction is difficult. Canadian agriculture is as diverse as the national geography and encompasses an equally broad range of farmer, agribusiness, consumer and government concerns.

"Achieving a consensus from among all the regional and other interests is a big job, but we are making progress. I think a good example is the movement on removing interprovincial trade barriers. As national agriculture ministers, we've now agreed to a number of specific steps to open doors between the provinces. That's very positive news for the agri-food industry throughout Canada, because we've got to remove barriers between provinces if we want to keep our industry competitive in world markets. Better interprovincial movement will also help our international trading," he says.

His own vision for the '90s is of greater stability for farmers and continued progress in building a strong secondary processing sector. "We cannot dispute the importance of our agricultural community. It's the foundation of Alberta's economy and the strongest thread in our social fabric. Family farms and rural communities are a big part of a strong Alberta. That's why the decisions that are made and the direction agriculture takes will touch every person in this province.

(Cont'd)

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Safety net programs are key to providing greater stability for farm families, he says. "What I've been stressing as I talk about the future, is that the long-term answer isn't throwing money at problems. We need to develop effective safety net programs that will provide lasting solutions to our problems, so there won't be a need for ad hoc assistance measures and quick fixes.

"It's the concept of the safety net that this government has been committed to since Don Getty became Premier, and we're beginning to see the benefits of that approach.

"We need to continue to improve our safety net programs and provide them to farmers as business tools. He, or she, then can choose whatever tools make the most sense for the individual operation.

"Alberta's farmers are hostage to what the weather brings and to what goes on in the world market outside our borders. Safety net programs are needed to help farmers cope with conditions beyond government and individual control. It's very important, though, that these programs don't undermine a farmer's ability to make sound economic and husbandry decisions and that they have as little influence as possible in the marketplace."

Hand-in-hand with the government's safety net programs are measures assisting Alberta farmers with input costs. About $168 million of the 1989-90 $600 million budget commitment to agriculture has gone to reducing input costs such as fuel, fertilizer and interest costs. "I don't know if urban Albertans truly understand how important this funding is for our farmers. Low input costs are one of the reasons food remains so affordable in Alberta. Albertans pay less for their groceries than people in most other countries in the world, and our input cost reduction programs are a big reason why."

The need for greater diversification, both in production and processing, will continue to play a key role in agricultural policy decisions in the decade ahead, says Mr. Isley. During the 1980's, he says, Alberta's agriculture industry found new crops to grow, new products to produce and new markets to sell them in.

(Cont'd)

"Farmers grew more pulse crops. Processors experimented with the best french fry. Companies sold genetics around the globe, and the list goes on and on."

As farming heads into the 1990s, he says he sees a lot of new interest in both traditional and non-traditional crops. "I believe, for example, that the new producer commissions set up last summer will generate a good deal of progress in pulse and canola crop and market development. And, of course, the world has rediscovered oats, and particularly, the superior oats we grow in Alberta. I could also add greenhouse crops, vegetables and potatoes--to name just a few--to the list of crops causing new excitement.

"In the area of food processing, we've seen all sorts of value-added endeavors take-off--from speciality cheeses to salad packaging to fancy cuts of beefs. Seeking opportunities for diversification and building on them is a critical part of agriculture's direction in the next decade and beyond.

"Our recent ministerial mission to Mexico is a good example. One focus of our mission was on beef and an "Alberta Night" during the CIAGA conference, an annual international livestock conference. CIAGA will be meeting in Calgary next July and its members will get a first-hand look at Alberta beef. But this contact was very important in pointing out that on the hoof, on the plate or as genetics, Alberta beef can't be beat."

Marketing and trade are the final ingredients in the success equation, he says. "Marketing is important inside and beyond our provincial borders, and our efforts are really paying off for the agri-food industry. Here at home, we're more aware of Alberta-made products and are buying more of them. At the same time, we're showing our great food communities and products to the world, and finding new buyers for them.

(Cont'd)

Setting direction challenge of the '90s (cont'd)

"Breaking into a new market is hard work, and our Alberta entrepreneurs face many obstacles. But as much as we've talked about the protectionist trade policies in the world and the difficulty in GATT negotiations, I believe there is a movement to liberalize trade--our trade agreement with the US led the way here--and ultimately that's good for agriculture in Alberta."

Mr. Isley says the future depends on the best use of the building blocks available to the agricultural community right now. "That means, as one example, taking a good look at transportation issues and finding the best method of paying the federal government's Crow Benefit.

"The method of payment is on my priority list. In changing the method of payment, I can see so many possibilities for strengthening rural communities, and that's very exciting.

"A joint government-industry task force report on the method of payment has recently been released, and we've asked rural citizens to comment on it.

"We know we'll hear from them. Rural Albertans never hesitate to let us know their opinions and provide constructive suggestions. That willingness to get involved is something I count on as Minister of Agriculture. The vision for the future has to come from all of us and then, we'll all share in the rewards."

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January 1, 1990
For immediate release

Teamwork building agriculture industry

The nine months since Shirley McClellan was sworn in as Alberta's Associate Agriculture Minister have been a hectic and productive time.

As 1989 ended, she was catching her breath between returning from an Asian trade mission and participating at the national agri-food policy conference. "It's been a very busy, exciting breaking-in period," she says. "These months have confirmed how demanding and invigorating it is to work and meet with farmers, agribusiness and leaders in the agricultural community."

"I'm proud of our agricultural sector and pleased to be in a position to affect agricultural policy. I look forward to assisting the industry set a firm foundation and direction for agriculture in this province," she adds.

She says she considers ratification of a second federal/provincial soil conservation agreement a major accomplishment of her first months in her portfolio. In July, along with federal agriculture minister Don Mazankowski, she signed a three-year $34.8 million dollar program aimed at fighting soil erosion and other soil degradation problems.

"My interest in soil conservation goes back a long way. You have to think about soil when you farm, because without it you have nothing. I also represent an area that has been highly susceptible to soil erosion and degradation. In 1988, as a newly-elected MLA, I was asked to pilot the Soil Conservation Act through the Legislature. Prevention was the major thrust of the Act. Prevention, along with education, is how we are going to beat the problem.

"Awareness is so very crucial to making our programs work. It's an awareness that has to extend beyond the agriculture industry's boundaries. Soil is a basic resource right up there with water and air. We are all responsible for protecting, maintaining and enhancing our soil resource for future generations.

(Cont'd)

Teamwork building agriculture industry (cont'd)

"Soil degradation is truly frightening when you look at the statistics. But I'm confident that the programs we've funded, the dedicated people running them and our producers will be able to turn the problem around. That's a key to successful farming in the future. It's also something we have to do together."

Co-operation and teamwork in approaching challenges is how she and Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley manage the agriculture portfolio, she says. "Agriculture is diverse and is expanding all the time. We approach our jobs the same way the industry is approaching the future: working together to identify the best solutions."

She says teamwork is apparent in a variety of events and situations. Changes to the hail and crop insurance program were born in a spirit of working together and it's taken co-operation to get the changes implemented. She also cites a series of agriculture mini-conferences Minister Isley and she have led.

"We've held mini-policy conferences in Coronation, Bow Island and Sexsmith. The discussions, ideas and plans we heard and talked about were tremendous and very useful. Farmer-generated ideas are often the most valuable suggestions we get. Dollar values can't be put on producer insight.

"This sharing is really critical to forming the best government response. The mutual exchange is what open democratic government is about. We plan to get out and do more of these in the months ahead.

"The recently-released federal discussion paper heralds a new era for agriculture. I want to ensure that Alberta producers have an opportunity to contribute to the dialogue proceeding implementation of a new, national agriculture policy," she says.

Building strong trade relationships also takes a co-operative effort, she says. In late November, Mrs. McClellan led a trade mission to Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore. She says she feels the mission sowed seeds of opportunity for Alberta companies and products and opened her eyes to the trade potential in South East Asia.

(Cont'd)

"The scope of opportunity in Asia is immense. Many of these countries import most of their food. We in Alberta can become a top supplier given our reputation for high quality and reliability. The challenge is raising awareness of our products in these markets," she says. Some of the promising products are beef, honey, pork, alfalfa pellets and cubes, potato products and cattle hides.

"We need to combine marketing efforts with consumer education as well as learn more about packaging preferences. Every contact we make, during a mission or a visit by an Alberta entrepreneur, is a building block in successful trading.

"I want to emphasize how important ministerial visits and the contacts made by department staff and business people are to trade success in that part of the world. We not only have to show the quality of our goods, but also prove we are going to be a long-term supplier. I'd like to commend our Alberta Agriculture people who have fostered a very positive relationship that can be built on by Alberta businesses."

Mrs. McClellan says an industry committed to working together and finding ways to keep strong and growing, ensures a bright future for agriculture. "Farmers are forward looking. Their land and way of life are a special trust that goes beyond being a producer of food for the nation and the world.

"There's always been a recognition that prosperity isn't just linked to production, but to processing our grains and meats. We've also discovered the potential of new crops. Our producers and agribusinesses are meeting those challenges head-on. Together, there's nothing we can't accomplish."

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January 1, 1990
For immediate release

Associate minister returns from Asian trade mission

Alberta's Associate Agriculture Minister, Shirley McClellan, recently returned from a two-week trade mission to South East Asia with great enthusiasm for the strong potential for Alberta products in Asian markets.

Joined by Barry Mehr, Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister for marketing, and David Wong, senior trade director for the Pacific Rim, the minister met with key people from the trade, wholesale and retail sectors and agricultural ministries in Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Japan.

"There is an outstanding market in Asia for Alberta products such as canola, beef, foodstuffs, livestock feed, biotechnology and other agricultural products. With trade barriers falling away and growing consumerism, the opportunities for our products in Asia are significant," says McClellan.

While in Asia, McClellan toured several retail outlets and was pleased to see many Alberta-made products prominently displayed. She says she attributes the success of Alberta products to their high quality and to the good reputations Canadian producers and distributors have earned themselves. The minister also gives credit to the trade officers in Canada's consulates and embassies, to the staff in Alberta's foreign offices and to the marketing division of Alberta Agriculture, who have been working closely with the private sector in their ongoing, aggressive pursuit of market opportunities.

"Our image in Asia is linked to the Canadian Rockies and is one of quality and purity," the minister notes. "This image gives us a tremendous advantage over our competitors."

But, she adds, there are also many challenges facing business people in Asia. "While a favorable image is helpful, we perhaps need to counsel businesses on the subtleties of doing business in Asia. Patience and persistence are essential in view of the fact that an investment in Japan takes as long as five years to show a return."

(Cont'd)

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One of the mission highlights was the minister's participation in the Canadian Beef Export Federation's beef seminars and demonstrations in the Japanese cities of Osaka and Tokyo. The Canadian Beef Export Federation, also known as Canada Beef, is a promotional and unification vehicle established by the beef industry. Its main objective is to raise the profile of Canadian beef abroad. Canada Beef was officially launched by federal trade minister John Crosby in November.

"The workshop and seminar were successful in expounding the nutritional value of a leaner beef. The Japanese have tended to prefer substantial marbling in their beef, but we expect this to change as they become more health-conscious. I would add that the Alberta beef industry is well prepared to respond to these changing consumer tastes," McClellan says.

Throughout Asia, the minister was well received by some of Asia's leading business people and ministries of agriculture, with whom she discussed Alberta's broad and varied product line. "The purpose of trade missions is to open doors for Alberta business. I think the mission was successful in that we were able to meet with some influential people and generate considerable interest in Alberta products," she says.

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January 1, 1990
For immediate release

Crow Benefit Offset claim deadline January 31

If you fed home grown grain before September 1, 1989, and intend to claim the $13 per tonne benefit of the Alberta Crow Benefit Offset Program, don't wait until January 31 to make your claim says the program's administrator.

"Start now by digging out your claim form and organizing sales documents. If you have trouble completing the claim form, consult the green booklet, 'Guide to Claiming Benefit on Home Grown Grain'," says Don Scheer.

Producers should make an appointment with their Alberta Agriculture district agriculture office well before the application deadline. Scheer says he anticipates that there will be a back-log of claims at the end of January.

"District staff will review your claim, copy your documents and submit the claim for payment." Claims signed at district offices after January 31 will qualify for $10 per tonne, he adds.

The January 31 deadline also applies for certificates. Producers have until then to issue certificates on grain delivered to their premises before September 1, 1989. Certificates issued after the January 31 deadline will again qualify for the $10 per tonne payment.

"All unused $13 per tonne certificates must be returned before claims are paid or further $10 per tonne certificates are mailed out," Scheer adds.

For more information, contact any Alberta Agriculture district office or the Crow Benefit Offset Program in Edmonton at 422-0015.

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January 1, 1990
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NW 4-H Council raises funds for tractor

Gordon Fuhr (left), president of the Northwest Regional 4-H Council, shakes hands with Allan Shenfield (right), a 4-H Foundation of Alberta director. Fuhr is presenting a tractor for the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake.

The Northwest Regional 4-H Council's Steer-A-Day Committee has made a major contribution to the Alberta 4-H Council by purchasing a tractor for the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake.

The tractor is a Ford 2120 four-wheel drive tractor complete with a front end loader and rear mower. Its purchase was made possible through Steer-A-Day raffle tickets sold during Klondike Days and the support of Edmonton Northlands and Hi Line Farm Equipment of Wetaskiwin.

(Cont'd)

This donation puts the North West 4-H Regional Council's total support to the Centre near $100,000, says Allan Shenfield, a director of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta.

"All the 4-H members, leaders, parents and council members certainly deserve congratulations for taking on this ambitious and very successful project," says Shenfield.

The tractor will be used for grounds maintenance and other work at the 143 acre site 35 miles west of Wetaskiwin on the shores of Battle Lake.

The facility provides a home for a number of 4-H events and activities. The environmental and outdoor learning centre is also open for bookings by the general public.

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CANADIANA

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We all protect food supply

Protecting the food supply is a partnership that starts with producers and continues through to consumers who prepare food for their tables says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"Recently consumers have voiced their concern about potential health risks from pesticides residues, product tampering and scattered outbreaks of foodborne illness. They are asking how safe their food supply is," says Aileen Whitmore.

Extensive safeguards, in the form of regulations, have helped maintain an impressive Canadian safety record for many years. "Ironically, that record, combined with little consumer awareness of how it has been achieved, may have magnified recent concerns," she says.

Consumers are justified in expecting government and industry to safeguard the food supply, she adds. Government is responsible for monitoring and regulating the origin, composition, quality, safety, measurement, labeling, packaging, marketing and distribution of food.

At every stage of production, the food industry follows standards of good manufacturing practice established by a team of government agencies.

"For example, on a cattle ranch, the use of antibiotics in animal feed and other biological agents are administered by the producer following instructions that have been carefully tested and reviewed. There are specified waiting periods between giving any drug and slaughter," she says. This means the producer has to accept a prominent role in assuring food safety, she adds.

Slaughterhouses and processing plants must maintain proper sanitary conditions. They also have to ensure contaminated meat doesn't come to market.

Food processors must maintain rigid temperature and sanitary conditions, as must wholesalers and distributors.

(Cont'd)

Retailers, too, must meet government standards for cleanliness, storage conditions and removing products from their shelves after expiration dates.

The final link is the consumer, she says. "Consumers, themselves, are a critical link to success. But, unlike other links in the food chain, consumers aren't regulated, organized and they aren't trained."

A recent US survey showed that while preparing food at home, consumers only rinse or wipe their hands 25 per cent of the time while cooking. They clean knives and cutting boards at the same low rate. Dirty hands, knives and cutting boards can all play a part in spreading diseases caused by micro-organisms.

"Food safety in the home is dependent on following accepted recommendations for storing and cooking food and high standards of cleanliness being maintained by those preparing the food," Whitmore says. "If you're not careful in the kitchen then, you, the consumer, may be the weakest link in a safe food supply."

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January 8, 1990
For immediate release

CARTT funds conservation meetings

A conservation society and an agricultural service board have received support for conservation meetings from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research Technology Transfer (CARTT) program.

One of the CARTT funding recipients is the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS), for its 12th annual convention. The convention's objectives include promoting and reporting soil conservation activities in Alberta and providing a forum for new technologies.

"This meeting gives farmers an opportunity to broaden their awareness of soil conservation issues and activities and to develop a stronger commitment to conservation management on their farms. The workshop format of the convention allows for meaningful participation by those who attend," says Vasile Klaassen, regional soil conservation co-ordinator in Airdrie. The two-day convention, January 16 and 17, is held in conjunction with the Red Deer Grow Show.

With CARTT support,the Municipal District of Starland's Agricultural Service Board will be holding three conservation program planning meetings over the winter. The municipality's farmers will be asked for their suggestions for a long-term municipal soil conservation plan.

Local farmers will be able to voice their opinions at meetings in Delia, Morrin and Rumsey. These meetings are one of the first steps in establishing a long-term conservation plan, she says. "The municipality has recognized the importance of a producer-driven conservation planning process. Local input is key in any plan's success."

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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January 8, 1990
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Valuing feed moisture content

The feeding values of the feed producers give their livestock vary with the moisture content of the feed says an Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist.

"From time to time, you may need to know the value of a high moisture barley as compared to a dry barley. Or is very dry grain worth more than average moisture content grain?" says Neil Miller, district agriculturist in Lacombe.

"Many feeders buy grain on the basis of bushel weight. At best, that is a very poor indication of feeding value. More important factors are nutrient and moisture content that can only be done by a feed analysis," he adds. Feed testing services are available through a number of private laboratories around the province as well as through the department's Soil and Animal Nutrition Laboratory.

Miller says there are many types of formulas to calculate the value of feed. He suggests two that will give a producer an accurate answer to their feed value questions. One keys on sample weight related to moisture content, and the other nutrient content.

"Moisture content is most important in comparing high moisture grains with drier grains. The same formula can be used in comparing the feeding value of silage and hay," he adds.

"If you had 1,000 pounds of high moisture barley at 30 per cent moisture and wanted to find the weight of the same barley if it was reduced to 15 per cent, you'd try to find an adjusted weight," he says.

The formula he suggests is: 100 minus the sample weight percentage, divided by 100 minus the adjusted moisture percentage, multiplied by the sample weight. In the example, the adjusted weight comes out at 824 pounds.

The adjusted nutrient formula is very similar. For example, a high moisture barley sample contains 30 per cent moisture and 10 per cent protein, and the farmer wants to find the protein content of the barley if it was reduced to 15 per cent moisture.

(Cont'd)

The adjusted nutrient percentage is equal to 100 minus the adjusted moisture percentage, divided by 100 minus the sample moisture percentage, multiplied by the sample nutrient percentage. In the example case the adjusted protein percentage works out to 12 per cent.

Contact: Neil Miller
782-3301

Formulas

1. Adjusted sample weights from one moisture content to another

$$\text{Adjusted weight} = \frac{100 - \text{sample moisture \%}}{100 - \text{adjusted moisture \%}} \times \text{sample weight}$$

2. Adjusted nutrient content from one feed moisture content to another.

$$\text{Adjusted nutrient \%} = \frac{100 - \text{adjusted moisture \%}}{100 - \text{sample moisture \%}} \times \text{sample nutrient \%}$$

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January 8, 1990
For immediate release

Amaryllis an easy-growing plant

Easy to grow and spectacular flowers are two qualities that have made the amaryllis popular as a gift plant and with people who like plants but don't have the proverbial green-thumb.

"An amaryllis is one good, and colorful way, to chase away winter blahs," says Pam North, an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

The flower's bulbs can be purchased individually or in a gift pack, she says. Gift packages usually include the bulb, pot and soil.

Pots should be about five centimetres larger in diameter than the bulb. Use commercial potting soil or a mixture of pasteurized loam, peat and perlite or vermiculite. Plant the bulb so its top one-third is above the soil line, then place in a sunny location. Until the bulb sprouts and starts to grow it will use very little water. Water when the soil surface feels dry to the touch.

"An amaryllis grows very quickly. It only takes four to six weeks from the time of planting until it blooms," says North.

Flowers are large, similar in looks to lilies. They can be a variety of colors--red, pink, orange and bi-color pink and white like an apple blossom. Plants can have one or two flower stalks each with two to four flowers.

Flowers last longer if they are kept cool, at less than 21 degrees Celsius. Water regularly and move the flowering plant out of direct sunlight to prolong the life of the flowers.

After flowers fade, remove the flower stalk. Keep the foliage healthy and actively growing for six months. "This is very important so that the bulb can be forced the following year. Water the plant regularly and fertilize it once every six weeks with 20-20-20," says North. The plant can be placed outside over the summer in a semi-shaded location.

(Cont'd)

After six months, usually in July or August, stop watering the plant and the foliage will die back. Cut off the dead leaves and give the bulb a rest period for at least two months. Keep it in the pot, but don't water it. Watering brings the bulb out of its dormancy.

"It's a tropical bulb, so the temperature shouldn't be lower than 13 degrees Celsius, " says North.

"To have your amaryllis blooming by Christmas, start watering the plant about four to six weeks before Christmas," she says.

For more information about growing an amaryllis, contact North at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

January 8, 1990
For immediate release

Celebrating change at MATFP kick-off

How agricultural producers respond to change in this new decade depends on whether they view change as an opportunity or something to be avoided says one of the expert speakers coming to the 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology (MATFP) conference.

Jolene Brown will open the conference March 4 with a keynote address titled "The celebration of change". Biotechnology, water issues, animal welfare and global environment will all influence agriculture. All will change and challenge the agricultural industry, Brown says.

In the keynote address, Brown will describe the profile of a successful "changer", someone who is "action centered" and "solution oriented". She'll also discuss six roadblocks to successful change and "change skills" needed to travel through changing times.

"She will also discuss how producers can react positively to change by releasing energy from worrying and putting it into planning and doing. Her presentation fits into the conference theme: For those who lead, not follow," says Paul Gervais, one of the conference co-ordinators.

Brown, who describes herself as a speaker-trainer, focuses on communication, stress, motivation and personal attitudes. From West Branch, Iowa, she travels throughout Canada and the United States talking and working mostly with rural audiences.

As well as opening the conference, Brown will lead two sessions on dealing with tough questions. "These sessions are designed to help producers deal with tough questions they may be asked, ranging from the impact of agriculture on the environment to red meat production practices. Participants will learn how to better prepare themselves to answer those sorts of questions," says Gervais.

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Celebrating change at MATFP kick-off (cont'd)

A broad range of topics are featured on the 1990 MATFP conference agenda. Timely topics include the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) and sustainable agriculture along with other economic, financial, farm business and management subjects.

MATFP is organized by Alberta Agriculture and the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) with support from a number of organizations and businesses in the agricultural community. The conference runs March 4 through 7 at the Kananaskis Lodge.

Registration is $125 per person or $150 per couple. Gervais encourages interested participants to register as soon as possible as the conference is limited to the first 450 participants registered. Registration forms are now available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

For more information about MATFP'90, contact Paul Gervais or Trish Stiles at 556-4240, write to MATFP'90, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, or FAX 556-7545.

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January 8, 1990
For immediate release

Trade dairy seminar topic

International trade in dairy products is one of four major discussion areas at the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar March 28 through 30.

"The final morning of the conference is devoted to international trade. Experts will discuss the European market's direction and American and Canadian dairy policy," says Brian Rhiness, Alberta Agriculture provincial dairy specialist.

The conference, at the Kananaskis Lodge, opens with a discussion of whether high production means high profits. An evening bearpit session will also feature this topic, says Rhiness.

Feed quality on the farm is on the afternoon agenda. A panel discussion follows speakers on commercial feed, maintaining quality and feed quality problems.

During the second day, speakers will address issues in preparing heifers and cows for successful lactation. Conditioning, feeding, herd health and reproduction will all be discussed.

"The seminar is an excellent opportunity for producers, researchers and others interested in the dairy industry to discuss current issues and practices," says Rhiness. "Participants will not only be able to get the latest information from a variety of experts, they will also be able to exchange information with their colleagues in the industry from across Western Canada."

The Western Canadian Dairy Seminar is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta with support from the Alberta Milk Producer's Society and other industry organizations.

More information is available from Alberta Agriculture dairy specialists and district offices. Registration can be done by telephone, call Sheila at 492-3029.

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Contact: Brian Rhiness
352-1223

January 8, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

APPOINTMENTS MADE TO IRRIGATION COUNCIL

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan has announced three appointments to the Alberta Irrigation Council. The new council members are Paul Van Tryp, Hans Visser and John Weing. Van Tryp is an irrigation and dryland farmer in the Burdett area. He is also the Municipal Chairman for the Country of Forty Mile and chairman of the North Forty Mile Landfill Authority. Visser operates a farm and large feedlot in the Taber area and is very active in Taber and district community affairs. Weing is an irrigation farmer in the Magrath area. He is past chairman of the Magrath Irrigation District board of directors and has been a member of the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association. There are currently 12 members on the Irrigation Council, two government representatives and ten farmer members. The council secretary is G.P. Hartman, manager of the Alberta Agriculture Irrigation Secretariat in Lethbridge. Leighton Buckwell is acting chairman of the council. For more information, contact Hartman in Lethbridge at 381-5176.

EUROPEAN SPEAKER TALKS PESTICIDES AND HUMANS

A German scientist is the featured speaker at two seminars in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat January 29 and 30. The seminars are part of a "production for the 90s" series sponsored by Alberta Wheat Pool and Westco. Edgar Faust will discuss pesticides and their impact on human safety. The day long seminars are at Lethbridge Lodge and Medicine Hat Lodge. For more information contact Jim Hahn in Lethbridge at 328-5005 and Laurence Nicholson in Medicine Hat at 526-2955.

COWBOY FEEDLOT SCHOOL

Olds College is once again offering a three-part cowboy feedlot school. Presented in three one-week modules, the course is designed for feedlot employees. The first module, January 29 to February 2,

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

COWBOY FEEDLOT SCHOOL (cont'd)

focuses on health, disease prevention and treatment. The second module is cowboy arithmetic and team building. It is February 12 through 15. The final module discusses nutrition and cattle processing. It runs February 26 through March 2. Participants can register in one or all three modules. The College offers a $100 discount for enrolling in all three modules prior to January 12. The registration deadline is 14 days before each course starts. For more information contact extension services at Olds College at 556-8344.

COW/CALF PRODUCTION SHORT COURSE

Olds College is offering a five-day intensive course in cow/calf production. Hands-on training will include breed evaluation, nutrition, genetics/breeding, live animal appraisal, carcass evaluation and lab sessions on ear implants, dehorning and castration. The course runs January 29 through February 2 at the college. The course fee is $375. For more information contact Michael Gillis, livestock project manager, extension services at Old College, 556-8313.

FIELD CROP ENTOMOLOGIST APPOINTED

The Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville has a new field crop entomologist in its pest management branch. Lloyd Dosdall will conduct research on the biology and control of economically important field crops insect pests and also be part of the diagnostic and extension services offered by the Centre's pest management branch. Dosdall completed bachelor, master and doctorate degrees at the University of Saskatchewan where he specialized in insect pest control and the assessment of environmental impacts caused by the use of insecticides. Most recently, Dosdall worked for the University of Manitoba's department of entomology. His research concentrated on control methods for biting flies. Dosdall can be contacted for assistance with diagnosis and control of insect pests and for co-operating and developing research on field crops insect pests. He can be reached in Vegreville at 632-6761 (extension 286).

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For immediate release

CANADIANA

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McClellan launches farm safety guide

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan (centre) officially launched the newest edition of "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety" along with associated classroom materials. Joining in the ceremony were Bud McEwen (right), of Alberta Power, and Bob Westbury, of TransAlta Utilities. The minister is holding one of the farm safety classroom calendars.

The 13th annual edition of "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety" is now available to rural students across the province.

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan officially launched the newest edition of the guide along with representatives of Alberta Power Limited and TransAlta Utilities Corporation. The utility companies marked their second year of sponsorship of the full-color booklet.

An activity booklet designed with a farm safety theme, the guide features winning poster and essay entries from elementary school students. Problems and quizzes on a variety of farm safety matters are presented through the student posters and essays.

(Cont'd)

"Every year we see tremendous interest in the annual Alberta Agriculture farm safety competition through the contest entries we receive from rural schools throughout the province," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program.

In total, 32 students were named to the 1989 honor roll and their work is featured in the 1989-90 guide and a farm safety calendar. A repeat winner for the best class poster was the Grade 4C class from Vermilion Elementary School. This poster is featured on the back page of the guide (See attached for complete list of winners).

"What's even more gratifying is the use the guide is getting in classrooms across the province. The enthusiasm for using the guide in the curriculum and for participating in the contest reinforces the safety message to young Alberta students," says Kyeremanteng.

About 50,000 copies of the new guide are available to rural students. The guide is available to Alberta schools on a first-come first-served basis and can be obtained by making a written request to: Farm Safety Program Office, Room 201, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Teachers may also be interested in a teacher's guide (one per school) and video (one per school jurisdiction) that complements the guide to assist in their classroom activities.

Following is a list of students and classes named to the 1989 honor roll:

Bon Accord Community School, BON ACCORD	Meghan Tomanek, Grade 2A
Camilla School, RIVERE QUE BARRE	Sheila Breitkreutz, Gr.4G Neil Fulton, Grade 4G Damian MacMillan,* Gr.4G
Barrhead Elementary School, BARRHEAD	Karen John, Grade 4E
Mother Theresa School, MEDICINE HAT	Kristin Muszko, Grade 2
Thompson Colony School, FORT MCLEOD	Paul Tschetter, Grade 7
Viscount Torrington School, TORRINGTON	Cody Ferguson, Grade 6

(Cont'd)

McClellan launches farm safety guide (cont'd)

Niton Central School, NITON JUNCTION	Miranda Keyes, Grade 5 Tammy Scharr, Grade 6
Thorsby Elementary School, THORSBY	Tara Barker, Grade 5
James S. McCormick School, LACOMBE	Melonie Wierenga, Grade 4
Spruce View School, SPRUCE VIEW	Tyler Jarvis, Grade 2
Cremona School, CREMONA	Monica Russell,* Grade 4
Waterton New Yarrow Colony School, PINCHER CREEK	Jacob Hofer, Grade 6
Gadsby Colony School, STETTLER	Solomon Stahl, Grade 6
Alliance School, ALLIANCE	Maryanne Spady, Grade 4
Forestburg Elementary School, FORESTBURG	Michel Freadrich, Grade 4
Kitscoty Elementary School, KITSCOTY	Jennifer Aitken, Grade 4A
Our Lady of Fatima, KILLAM	Jodi Stang, Grade 6 Anna Ruzicka, Grade 5 Tanis Jenson,* Grade 6
Tulliby Lake School, TULLIBY LAKE	Lynette Larson, Grade 3
Clandonald School, CLANDONALD	James Martin, Grade 5 Cheryl Kurash, *, Grade 6
Round Hill School, ROUND HILL	Amy Christenson, Grade 3 Lynette Strilchuk, Grade 3
J.E. Lapointe School, BEAUMONT	Heather Skerry, Grade 5 Laurie Ronaghan, Grade 5
Vermilion Elementary School, VERMILION	Rocky Allen, Grade 4B Kimberly Earle,* Grade 4A Laura Heller * Grade 4B Grade 4C Class, Best Poster

* Calendar winner

Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

AGRI NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

January 15, 1990
For immediate release

Use roadmap in farm family financial planning

Roadmaps are a necessary guide when deciding where to go in unfamiliar territory, and farm families need that kind of guide when they're planning their financial future says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"A financial plan is a guideline, or roadmap, for making decisions about spending money. When you have a plan, you are better prepared to achieve your goals and deal with any changes in your family, the economy or society," says Judy Shipley-Smith, regional family resource management specialist in Airdrie.

"Financial planning means you have to ask yourself a lot of questions. How much of your income do you save or invest? Are you satisfied with how you spend money for your family and on the farm business? Do you have retirement plans? Have you covered risks such as death and property damage? Do you have options if inflation continues and input prices increase?" she says.

A financial plan is a farm family's roadmap to how to divide income between spending, borrowing, saving, protecting, investing and sharing to maintain the family's economic stability and security.

"It's important to understand each of these expenses, so your planning is efficient and your family gets what it needs for its business and personal needs," she says.

Spending is purchasing power. It's influenced by economic factors such as income, inflation and the viability of the farm business. Careful planning and shopping is necessary so each spending decision uses limited dollars efficiently.

Borrowing is credit that uses future income to satisfy current needs. Young farm families tend to need more credit as they build their farm business. "While borrowing may be necessary and to your advantage, it must be managed. When used wisely, credit can raise the standard of living," she says.

(Cont'd)

Savings is the money set aside to meet planned future needs such as insurance premiums and loan payments. An emergency fund is savings for unanticipated needs such as illness or a decline in farm income.

"An investment is anything you put your money into to earn a profit. Investing generally uses higher-yield alternatives with higher risks," says Shipley-Smith. "Families should never take risks with money needed for daily living expenses or the emergency fund," she adds.

Both protecting and sharing involve risk management. Insurance is one example of risk management. As well, insurance shares costs with many other people. Examples of sharing expenses include taxes and charitable contributions.

"Each of these expenses change with a family's goals, needs, responsibilities and the current economic conditions, so it's important to up-date your road map.

"Throughout February district home economists will be offering seminars and workshops about "taking your financial pulse". These are good opportunities for a farm couple to look at their current situation and whether they need to do more planning," she says.

For more information on developing a farm family financial plan or about financial pulse seminars, contact any Alberta Agriculture district office.

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Contact: Judy Shipley-Smith
948-8505

January 15, 1990
For immediate release

Farm family financial planning over the life cycle

Just as children grow through stages of development, your business and family go through different stages and have different requirements says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Financial planning is really crucial for farm families as they juggle the needs and demands of both family and farm business. And because both the family and farm business do change as the years go by, you need to be aware and plan ahead," says Judy Shipley-Smith, regional farm resource management specialist in Airdrie.

She says the starting point in planning is knowing what stage the family and farm business are at. For example, Rob is 43 and his wife Fay is 42. They have been grain farming for 23 years and own 1280 cultivated acres. They have a 17-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter. All take an active part in the farming operation.

"This farm family is in the child rearing stage of the family life cycle. Unique financial demands in this stage include building an education fund, establishing and working toward retirement goals and maximizing protection of the major income earner or earners," says Shipley-Smith.

As well, Rob and Fay's farm business fits into a business cycle. Growth, consolidation and survival may apply to farm operators with 20 to 25 years of experience. At this stage in their business they may be evaluating their production efficiency, increasing economic security and adapting improved labor techniques.

"Goals can be set once the family knows what stage they are in in each of the cycles. Then they should set their priorities so they can develop their financial plan," she says.

For more information about farm family financial planning, contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist and ask about "Taking your financial pulse" seminars during February, 1990.

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Contact: Judy Shipley-Smith
948-8505

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

January 15, 1990
For immediate release

1989 weather average, but

Last year's average annual temperature was slightly cooler and total precipitation was about three per cent above the long-term average says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

The average annual temperature in 1989, at 22 Alberta weather stations across the province, was 0.4 degree Celsius colder than the average annual temperature for the years 1951 through 1980 reports Peter Dzikowski.

The same 22 stations averaged 465.5 millimetres (mm) of precipitation, about three per cent above the 1951 to 1980 average.

"For Alberta, 1989 was about as close to an 'average' year as you can get," says Dzikowski. "But many parts of the province had conditions significantly different from what the provincial averages portray. For example, the annual total precipitation at Brooks was 246.3 mm, 73 per cent of the long term average, while Whitecourt received three times that amount, recording 776.2 mm, 141 per cent of the 1951 to 1980 average."

Precipitation averaged for the province was within 10 per cent of the long term average for six of 12 months in 1989. February through April were notably dry, with precipitation amounts about 40, 30 and 45 per cent respectively below their long term monthly averages. August was the wettest month in 1989, with an average of 84 mm of precipitation, 38 per cent above the long term monthly average. November was also wetter than usual with precipitation about 32 per cent higher than the long term monthly average.

1989 began with a mild January, five degrees above the long term temperature average. February and March put the province into a deep freeze, with temperatures four degrees below the long term average. The next eight months had average temperatures, all within one degree of the long term average. December started cold, but mild weather before and during Christmas resulted in an average temperature for the month two degrees above the long term monthly average.

(Cont'd)

1989 weather average, but (cont'd)

"Although the provincial averages present a simple, clear picture of what has happened, a lot of the detail that has serious consequences is missing. An example of this is the 185.9 mm of precipitation recorded at Grande Prairie in August. That was three times the long term average for that location. The heavy rains caused fields to become too wet for harvesting equipment and led to significant crop loss," Dzikowski says.

December's weather was also full of variety, he says. West central and north western Alberta recorded average temperatures five to seven degrees Celsius above the long term monthly average. Southern and western Alberta recorded average temperature values three to four degrees higher than normal. Central and eastern locations were near the long term average.

Precipitation averaged for the province was 21.1 mm in December, about 10 per cent below the long term average. Brooks recorded the least precipitation at 2.6 mm, 14 per cent of the long term monthly average. Cold Lake reported the most precipitation, 66.9 mm, or 270 per cent of the long term monthly average.

For more information on 1989's weather, contact Dzikowski at Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch in Edmonton at 422-4385.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

January 15, 1990
For immediate release

Lt. Governor to speak at Rural Crime Watch provincial workshop

Alberta's Lieutenant-Governor Helen Hunley will give the keynote address at the 1990 provincial Rural Crime Watch workshop in Didsbury February 3.

"Her Honor will focus her remarks on the the workshop theme: 'It's worth it'," says Cliff Munroe of the Farmers' Advocate office. The Farmers' Advocate chairs the Rural Crime Watch Association steering committee and also participates at the annual workshop.

This year the Didsbury Rural Crime Watch Association is hosting the annual event.

Four concurrent sessions in the morning and afternoon are featured during the workshop. One of the workshop topics is community policing advisory committees, a new concept for policing rural communities. The other topics up for discussion are: computers as a worthwhile communications aid; keeping your organization healthy through communication; and, Rural Crime Watch principles and trespass laws.

"Workshop speakers are experts from the RCMP, Crime Watch Associations and consultants," says Munroe.

The workshop kicks off on February 2 with an evening welcome and family entertainment. Saturday morning begins with a western-style pancake breakfast.

Another workshop highlight will be the winners of student contests. Essay winners will read their compositions. They, and the poster winners, will be presented with their awards.

Following workshop sessions, the association will hold its annual meeting with Farmers' Advocate Cliff Downey acting as moderator-chairman.

"Each association is invited to submit any resolutions they wish raised and discussed. If passed at the annual meeting, any resolutions will be forwarded to the appropriate level of government," Downey says.

(Cont'd)

Lt. Governor to speak at Rural Crime Watch provincial workshop (cont'd)

Participants are asked to pre-register. The registration fee is $20 per person. Registration forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, RCMP detachments and local Rural Crime Watch Associations. For more information, please contact a local association president or local RCMP Rural Crime Watch officer.

There are currently 114 Rural Crime Watch Associations across the province. Rural Crime Watch is a crime prevention program designed to supplement rural police operations. It was formed in 1979 by the Alberta Cattle Commission, the Western Stock Growers Association, the Farmers' Advocate of Alberta and the RCMP.

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Contact: Cliff Munroe
427-2433

Maggie Lamb
Workshop co-ordinator
638-2969

January 15, 1990
For immediate release

MATFP closing highlights personal discovery

A record-setting pilot will share how he made his dream a reality in the closing message to delegates at the 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) conference.

Carl Hiebert is an accomplished photographer and world traveller who also made Canadian aviation history in 1986 by piloting an open-cockpit ultralight aircraft across Canada. He flew the ultralight 5000 miles across the nation from Halifax to Expo'86 in Vancouver.

"What makes his adventure truly extraordinary is that Carl Hiebert is a paraplegic," says Paul Gervais, one of the conference co-ordinators. "A lifelong adventurer, he refuses to let a wheelchair rob him of a productive and meaningful life."

In his presentation, Hiebert uses a spectacular and humorous aerial travelogue slide show to tell the story of his historic flight. "His message is more than a thrilling story of an unusual voyage across this great land, it's the story of a journey of personal discovery which will help to unlock the extraordinary in each one of us," says Gervais.

Hiebert's participation at MATFP'90 is sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada. "We're very pleased to continue our participation in this top-notch agricultural conference," says Keith Sveinson, who heads the Royal Bank's agricultural banking team in Alberta.

Hiebert is only one of the top-caliber speakers featured at MATFP'90. Experts from across North America will address a broad range of economic, financial, business and farm management topics. Timely topics include a Canadian economic outlook, developing a farm marketing plan, the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST), sustainable agriculture and soil productivity.

The conference is designed for farm couples to learn about trends, issues and challenges facing agriculture in the 1990s. This year's conference is March 4 through 7 at the Kananaskis Lodge.

(Cont'd)

MATFP closing highlights personal discovery (cont'd)

The Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and Alberta Agriculture organize the conference in co-operation with members of the agribusiness community.

Registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis and registration fees are $125 per person or $150 per couple. Registration information is available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Stiles
556-4240

January 15, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

PEA PRODUCTION UPDATE

A pea production update and the annual meeting of the Central Pulse Growers is scheduled for February 15 at the Lacombe Legion Hall. On the discussion agenda are: results of the 1989 demonstration plots, a variety and production update, a progress report on hog feeding trials, weed control and marketing opportunities. In the afternoon there will be a business meeting and election of zone directors. The meeting is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Pulse Commission. For more information, contact Craig Shaw at 782-6618 or Lacombe district agriculturist, Neil Miller, at 782-3301.

FOOD MERCHANDISING STRATEGIES THEME OF FOOD INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The 10th annual Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry will focus on merchandising strategies for the '90s. The conference is February 11 and 12 at Calgary's Marlborough Inn. Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley is scheduled to address the conference and discuss Alberta Agriculture's objectives and direction for the next decade. Other topics on the agenda include: food quality, food safety, nutritional labelling in the food industry; trends in product presentation; and, merchandising through food packaging including environmental concerns. The conference program is supported and planned by Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Canada, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, the Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation, the Calgary Co-operative Association, Canada Safeway Limited, Horne and Pitfield Foods Limited and the University of Alberta. The Rural Education Development Association (REDA) acts as conference co-ordinator. For more information and brochures, contact REDA at 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9, phone 451-5959 or FAX 452-5385.

ALBERTAN ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Murray Anderson, head of range management for the Alberta Forest

(Cont'd)

ALBERTAN ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL OFFICE (cont'd)

Service, was elected to the Society of Range Management (SRM) board of directors. Anderson will begin his service with the 5,000 member society in February at its annual meeting in Reno, Nevada. He will serve a three year term. "Rangelands are no respecter of political boundaries. I have greatly benefitted from the exchange of ideas, successes and experiences garnered from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Middle East, Australia and elsewhere where SRM has members," Anderson says. He says he believes the challenge facing the SRM is to foster greater understanding and appreciation of the stewardship of rangelands. Anderson is a BSc in agriculture graduate of the University of Alberta and holds a masters degree in range management. As well as working for the Alberta Forest Service, he also farms and ranches near his hometown of Taber.

13TH WESTERN BARLEY GROWERS CONVENTION FEB. 14-16

The Western Barley Growers Association will hold its 13th annual convention and trade show at the Kananaskis Lodge February 14 through 16. Convention delegates will hear a number of expert speakers on a variety of topics. Subjects include: are banks interested in agriculture; nutritional quality of barley for food and feed; water, sun and the hand of man; waterfowl, fall feeding stations and more; a world grain outlook; the new North Dakota Barley Commission; the GST and farm tax reform; and, the changing barley market. For more information call Anne Schneider at the association office at 291-3630.

PRAIRIE POTATO COUNCIL MEETING

The Prairie Potato Council is holding its 18th annual meeting in Saskatoon February 14 through 17. For more information on the conference contact Connie Achtymichuk at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon at 306-373-0016.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

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Four new members in Alberta's 4-H Hall of Fame

Four longtime supporters of Alberta youth and the 4-H movement have been inducted into Alberta's 4-H Hall of Fame.

Verna Pickles, Viola Hampton, Bernice and Fred Boulton were honored at an induction ceremony during the recent 48th annual 4-H leaders' conference. With their induction, the number of 4-H Hall of Fame members now stands at 30.

VERNA PICKLES

VIOLA HAMPTON

For more than 25 years Verna Pickles, of Castor, has been a part of 4-H as a club leader, a district and regional 4-H council representative, a 4-H historian and an active participant in provincial 4-H activities. Her involvement has also ranged through the roles of 4-H mother, chaperone, public speaking and project judge, hostess of exchange trips and a guest speaker at a variety of functions.

Her involvement with 4-H began in 1964, assisting with the first Castor 4-H Horticulture Club. She moved on to lead the first Castor 4-H Clothing Club for three years. Eventually, she also led the horticulture club.

(Cont'd)

Active in the Coronation District Council from 1965 to the present, she has compiled and updated three district council history books since 1967. A fourth book will be published in 1990. These comprehensive books cover district, regional and some provincial activities and information.

As well as her dedication to 4-H, Pickles has also been involved in other activities in her community. She has been a member of Unifarm, the All Saints' Anglican Women and Junior Auxiliary and a Sunday School teacher. She was also one of the first women to serve on the County of Paintearth Advisory Board. Her interest in history also extended to historical research for schools and communities in her local area.

Viola (Vi) Hampton, of Rowley, began her 4-H involvement in Coos, Bay, Oregon as a 4-H member in 1929. Twenty-seven years ago, she started a Buttons and Bows 4-H Sewing Club in her home community of Rowley, north of Drumheller. A few years later she organized the Rowley 4-H Food Club and led it for five years. In 1982, she organized the Rowley 4-H Landscaping Club. This club, and the sewing club, still operate under her leadership.

Hampton's 4-H involvement has gone beyond the club level. She has judged at many 4-H achievement days for clubs in neighboring areas. In 1982, she was elected by her regional council to attend the national leaders' conference in Toronto. She has also attended many further educational courses to increase her skills and knowledge to share with others.

As well as raising a family of four, Hampton was a member of the Home and School Association and a Sunday School teacher, treasurer and caretaker at the Rowley United Church. She was a founder of the Rowley Yesteryears Museum and worked on the Rumsey-Rowley History Book.

Husband and wife, Bernice and Fred Boulton, of Abee, were inducted individually into the 4-H Hall of Fame. "When you ask individuals who grew up in the Thorhild, Abee or Newbrook areas about 4-H, the Boulton name is usually mentioned," says Ted Youck, head of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

(Cont'd)

BERNICE BOULTON

FRED BOULTON

Together the Boultons raised a 4-H family and contributed immeasurably to 4-H in Alberta.

Bernice Boulton was a 4-H leader for 30 years in the Abee area leading poultry, potato and garden clubs. She actively participated at the club, district, regional and provincial level.

Over the years, she was instrumental in organizing inter-club achievement days among several 4-H garden clubs in her district. She also helped promote 4-H through radio and television interviews. In 1970, she was one of 10 Canadian 4-H leaders awarded a trip to Montana's 4-H State Congress where they presented the new Canadian flag. She had the honor of representing the Canadian delegation by being the courtesy speaker at the congress awards night and banquet.

As well as her involvement in 4-H, Boulton was a tireless volunteer in the Abee community. She is a life steward of St. Andrew's United Church, a lifetime member of the Abee Womens' Institute and the first president of the Abee Co-op.

(Cont'd)

Four new members in Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame (cont'd)

Fred Boulton first became interested in 4-H through his work with school fairs. Driving his horse and sleigh, he travelled the Abee area publicizing the objectives of junior 4-H clubs.

As a 4-H leader for 25 years, Boulton was involved in grain, forage, dairy, sheep and potato clubs. As well, he was a great asset in organizing many of these clubs. The Junior Grain Club led by Boulton boasts the world oat championship for 1948 and 1956 and a world championship at the Chicago Seed Fair in 1955.

With his quiet, polite manner, Boulton was able to organize volunteers to assist with 4-H clubs, as well as community events. He was a founding member of the ABNT Rural Electric Association and served on it for 36 years. He is a life elder of St. Andrew's United Church, a director of the Alberta Wool Growers' Association, an Abee Co-op Store director, a member of the Waskatenau Mason Lodge, a member of the Abee Community Hall Association, a World War I veteran and a life member of the Thorhild Legion.

The Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame is located on the second floor of the J.G. O'Donoghue Building, Alberta Agriculture's headquarters, at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

January 22, 1990
For immediate release

Farm income decline also expected in 1990

When the final figures are totalled, it's estimated the 1989 cash income for Alberta farmers will be $730 million, a 21 per cent decline from the record level of 1988.

"Realized net income in 1990 is also projected to decline," says Bill Schissel, of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

Schissel says 1989 income levels were down because of decreases in program payments and increases in crop-related expenditures by producers reacting to higher global grain prices. He adds continued strength in the beef sector was more than offset by declines in program payments and increased operating expenses.

Both farm cash receipts and operating expenses reached estimated record levels in 1989. Farm cash receipts are estimated at a record $4.463 billion, or half a per cent above 1988's level. "The increase was due to higher receipts from sales of cereal grains and cattle, but was offset by substantial decreases in program payments," he says.

Operating expenses in 1989 reached a record level of $3.754 billion, six per cent above the 1988 level.

Projected farm cash receipts and expenses in 1990 may mean an estimated 54 per cent decline in realized net farm income, Schissel says. "Although the $337 million dollar projected income level is well below the 1989 level and, indeed, is the lowest real level since the 1930s, it's not as critically low as in other Western provinces."

He says significant reductions in program payments, high operating expense levels and some declines in grain prices are the factors influencing the low realized net farm income projection for this year.

There is some positive news, he adds. "Despite the low overall income projection, receipts from the sale of cattle and calves are expected to reach record levels in 1990."

(Cont'd)

Farm income decline also expected in 1990 (cont'd)

The farm income outlook could be significantly affected by adverse weather conditions in one or more major producing regions in the world, he says. "Because global grain supplies are relatively tight, prices could be influenced dramatically by a shortfall in production."

For more information, contact Schissel at Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch at 427-4011.

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Contact: Bill Schissel
427-4011

January 22, 1990
For immediate release

Exempt goods list important GST change for farmers

When federal finance minister Michael Wilson announced a lower rate for the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) last month, he also proposed other important changes says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Personal and business tax amendments were necessary to make up for an estimated $6 billion loss of revenue from the rate reduction. At the individual level, the after-tax position of Canadians is essentially the same now as before the rate was lowered," says Merle Good, a tax specialist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

The farm management economist says the most important change for farmers is the federal government's proposal to create a list of zero-rated exempt input goods. Farmers and fishermen would be able to purchase these input goods tax-free.

"This means less administrative red tape for producers," he says. "Producers will only have to file refund claims for non-exempt inputs, reducing paperwork, administrative costs and most important, the concern of reduced cash flow to finance paying tax on all input purchases."

The finance department has indicated it's seeking consultation from the farming community regarding the items to be included on the exempt list, Good says. "It's important farmers and their organizations submit recommendations so a comprehensive list can be drafted that not only includes capital items, such as machinery and equipment, but major input items such as fertilizer and chemicals."

Alberta's farmers and ranchers will also be affected by a number of other personal and business tax amendments in the latest Wilson proposal.

A technical agreement was made regarding the collection of GST on crop-share arrangements. Farmers who receive a percentage of crop as rent for their property won't be required to collect GST from the renter. "In other words, a landlord can sell his agricultural products tax-free under the same system as the farmer/tenant," says Good.

(Cont'd)

An originally proposed small business administration fee has been dropped in favor of the lower GST rate. The proposal had called for an annual small business administration fee of up to $600, paid by businesses with sales of less than $2 million. The federal government is prepared to offer a one-time $1,000 refundable credit instead, and estimates it can save $600 million from the change.

Good says the price of fuel won't drop when the GST is implemented. "The federal government appears to be replacing sales taxes with excise tax increases, which are non-refundable under the GST system. This will also mean an extra $700 million in income."

On the personal tax side, Ottawa expects to earn an additional $200 million for an increased tax surcharge for upper income earners. The rate goes up from three to five per cent. This surtax will start when a taxpayer's basic federal tax exceeds $12,500. Also, no further amendments are planned on the GST rate on new housing. The effective rate remains at 4.5 per cent.

To compensate for the inflationary effect of the GST, special government payments for universal social programs such as old-age pensions and family allowances will be decreased by $1.1 billion. The finance department estimates a seven per cent tax will have half the inflationary effect of a nine per cent tax.

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

January 22, 1990
For immediate release

Choosing low fat meat

If you're confused by how much fat should be in your diet, you aren't alone says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"The average consumer is confused when told their diet should contain 30 per cent or less of energy from fat," says Aileen Whitmore. "Consumers need clear guidelines about limiting their fat intake."

"Consumers probably get most concerned, and confused, when they are choosing meats. They may not be certain what lean is," she adds.

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada nutrition labelling guideline's currently define lean for meat and poultry as no more than 10 per cent of fat per serving.

"Using that guideline gives a more definite description of low fat," says Whitmore.

Beef cuts that would be included in this category are: round, flank, ribeye, rump, sirloin, sirloin tip, stewing beef, strip loin steak and wing steak. Pork cuts include leg (ham), loin, shoulder and tenderloin. Processed meats would include sliced cooked ham, roast beef, pastrami (Montreal smoked meat), grilled back or peameal bacon and "light" luncheon meats.

"Basic rules for wise meat buying, as well as wise preparation, can lead to lower fat meat choices," she says. "Look for well-trimmed cuts of meat with one-quarter inch or less of trim. Trimming meat can reduce fat content by as much as 50 per cent. Also look for beef cuts with slight marbling. That's the intramuscular streak of fat seen in the meat cut."

Generally, cuts from the hind or hip area of beef and pork contain the least fat. Cuts from the middle or loin area contain moderate fat and cuts from the shoulder contain the most fat.

(Cont'd)

Choosing low fat meat (cont'd)

When cooking, cook meat so fat can drip away to keep meat lean. Broil, grill or roast meat on a rack. If microwaving ground beef, put it in a microwave safe colander inside a bowl.

Cook soups and stews in advance, chill and remove congealed fat before reheating. Avoid gravy, sauces and breading. Serve meat "au jus", making sure to skim off all fat. Marinate with spices, wine, lemon or tomato juice instead of oil.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

January 22, 1990
For immediate release

Assistance sources in new publication

A new Alberta Agriculture publication lists most of the government departments, agencies, organizations and programs available to help producers and agribusiness.

"We felt that a reference of this type would be useful, because there are so many different forms of assistance available and they originate in such a range of government departments and agencies," says Anita Lunden, of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

"Sources of Assistance for Agriculture" provides a concise description of federal and provincial programs and agencies plus lists a directory of contacts.

The booklet should be useful to people who want an overview of available assistance, as well as to those who want information on a specific program type or assistance for a specific enterprise or operation, Lunden says.

"Because it takes so much time to prepare and print a publication like this, it's never possible to have a completely up-to-date reference to all forms of assistance. There are just too many programs and they change too often," says Lunden, who was one of the people who worked on the publication.

This new publication replaces two existing publications, "Sources of Business Credit" and "Assistance Available to Alberta Farmers". More programs and agencies, particularly in the areas of food processing and marketing, have been included in the new Sources of Assistance. Another key difference is the emphasis in the new booklet, she adds. "While the previous publications emphasized financial assistance, the new Sources of Assistance gives more emphasis to sources of information, advice, training and services."

(Cont'd)

Assistance sources in new publication (cont'd)

Also noteworthy, she adds, is that the publication is first Alberta Agriculture publication to be printed on recycled paper.

Copies of this booklet are available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 871-1.

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Contact: Anita Lunden
556-4240

January 22, 1990
For immediate release

Human and people management issues addressed at MATFP

Human issues and people management are two featured topics at the 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) conference March 4 through 7 at the Kananaskis Lodge.

"Human resource management and human relations management are two management areas often overlooked by farm managers today," says Paul Gervais, one of the conference organizers. "Problems in these areas can affect the farm family, hired help and suppliers. Eventually, they show up as reduced farm productivity and profitability."

Three speakers--Donna Arvidson, Don Shaw and Paul Gessaman--will lead conference sessions dealing with some of the human issues faced by farm managers.

Donna Arvidson will discuss personal behavior styles and how our own behavior style can be a factor when dealing with others. Communicating with someone who is uncomfortable with our behavior style has a negative effect on how he or she will respond, she says. Recognizing the behavior style of others and adapting our own type to that of others can enhance communications and result in a smoother running farm business.

Back by popular demand is Don Shaw, who specializes in dealing with family problems. His session, entitled "Problem solving for the farm family" is designed for people who are facing some of the challenges of parenting in today's fast-moving world of seemingly changing values. He will explore ways of building trust, sharing and excitement in family life, and how to help parents develop a sense of self image and esteem in their children.

Another MATFP speaker will discuss goal-directed management for the farm business. In his sessions, Paul Gessaman will show participants how they have the power and responsibility to shape the future of their farm businesses.

(Cont'd)

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Human and people management issues addressed at MATFP (cont'd)

"Identifying and setting goals is the key to finding out where you are going, how you intend to get there and when you intend to arrive," Gessaman says. Setting attainable goals is a key starting point in managing a farm business, he adds.

Other timely topics featured at this year's conference include the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) and sustainable agriculture. The conference features a range of economic, financial, business and farm management topics. It's designed to provide an opportunity for farm couples to learn about trends, issues and challenges facing agriculture in the 1990s.

In addition to the conference sessions, several pre-conference sessions will also be offered to registrants on Sunday, March 4. The pre-conference will include all-day sessions about communication and writing skills, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and goal-setting.

The annual Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit conference is organized by the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with several members of the agribusiness community.

Registration fees are $125 per person, or $150 per couple. However registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis and the conference is limited to 450 participants. Registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

For further information about the 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit conference, contact Paul Gervais or Trish Stiles in Olds at 556-4240 or write to: MATFP'90, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0 (FAX 403-556-7545).

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Stiles
556-4240

January 22, 1990
For immediate release

Three agriculture ministers to speak at ASB conference

To launch the new decade, this year's provincial agricultural service board conference revolves around the theme of sustaining agriculture in the 1990s.

A keynote address on the conference theme opens activities on January 30. Addressing the conference theme will be C.M. (Red) Williams, of the University of Saskatchewan's faculty of agriculture. The conference is January 29 through February 1 at the Edmonton Inn in Edmonton.

Don Mazankowski, federal agriculture minister and Deputy Prime Minister, will also discuss agriculture in the 1990s. He will also speak to conference delegates on January 30.

Both Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan will address the conference. Isley is the banquet guest speaker on January 31 and McClellan will close the conference on February 1.

Conference delegates will also hear and take part in a number of discussions. The topics include: multiple land use, managing soil, water and forest resources in the 1990s, conventional and organic farming alternatives and the role of agriculture service boards.

For more information about the conference, contact Alberta Agriculture's agriculture and community services branch at 427-2171.

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Contact: Reg Kontz
427-2171

January 22, 1990
For immediate release

Looking ahead at crop production this decade

Continuing awareness about changes in technology and practices has been a success ingredient for farm managers over the years and a scheduled seminar will give farmers a look at what's new in crop production.

The one-day seminar, "Crop production in the '90s--a look ahead" will be held February 6 at the Moyer Recreation Centre in Josephburg. The seminar is co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Canola Growers' Association and the Alberta Barley Growers' Association.

"The seminar is designed to meet the demands of this new information age. A vast amount of new technology is on the horizon and the agriculture sector is on the leading edge of many new developments," says Corey Loessin, Thorhild district agriculturist and one of the seminar's organizers.

Leading the day's discussions is a look at 1989 provincial and local crop yields and the reasons behind the results that were achieved. Murray McLelland, provincial cereals specialist, and Phil Thomas, provincial oilseed specialist, will give their insight about diseases, weather conditions and other factors that may have reduced yields.

Soil will also be featured. Morinville area farmer Lawrence Kluthe will discuss crop rotations and its relationship to soil health. Dave Chansky, who works with the University of Alberta's soils department, will discuss soil moisture and how crop systems affect it.

Field trial plot data will be presented by district agriculturists from Morinville, Thorhild, Sangudo and Stony Plain areas. "This information is a popular source of supplementing provincial recommendations for crop variety decisions," Loessin says.

Bob Park, Alberta Agriculture's provincial special crops specialist, will talk about the four best new crops. Park has been looking at variety of crops in many areas of the province. Some crops have been successful, others haven't. Park will discuss ones that show the most promise in particular areas.

(Cont'd)

Looking ahead at crop production this decade (cont'd)

The day wraps up with a summary of the seminar's information and also with practical tips to obtain maximum yield. Elston Solberg, a research agronomist with Alberta Agriculture's soils branch, will discuss fertility requirements and the balances needed for top yields. Bill Chapman, north west regional crop specialist, will tie together agronomic and management practices to help producers obtain their target yields.

The $15 registration fee covers lunch. Lunch features a humorous presentation by Gabe Keller on the topic of the best medicine for the 1990s.

Participants are asked to register with the Alberta Agriculture district office in Morinville (939-4351) before February 2 to be guaranteed lunch.

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Contact: Corey Loessin
398-3993

Bill Chapman
674-8259

January 22, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

NEW VIDEO EXAMINES GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Alberta Agriculture's Film Library has a new video for loan that explains the greenhouse effect and looks at some of its predicted consequences. "Greenhouse crisis: The American Response" defends the position that only the wise use of energy can halt global warming. The 11-minute video includes a hypothetical television weather cast of the future to help get across its message of energy efficiency. The video is a 1989 production of the Union of Concerned Scientists. For more information about the video, contact Alberta Agriculture's Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 and quote VT 569-2.

GENETIC BREAKTHROUGH IMPROVES SNACK FOODS

An American snack good giant will benefit from a research breakthrough by a Canadian agricultural biotechnology company. Allelix Crop Technologies has been working with Frito-Lay to develop a vegetable oil that is more stable than conventional frying oils. The hoped for result was a higher nutritional food quality and a longer shelf life. The breakthrough has been made with canola. Allelix developed a new canola plant with the ideal oil profile for Frito-Lay's particular processing specifications. The result, says a company spokesman, is a product with lower saturated fat and a longer shelf life without any loss in flavour. Frito-Lay has annual sales of about $3.5 billion. Allelix Crop Technologies has research facilities in Canada and the United States. Its corporate headquarters are in Toronto. For more information contact Jeremy Gawen, president of Allelix in Toronto at (416)677-0831.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
FEB 12 1990

January 29, 1990

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

January 29, 1990
For immediate release

McClellan invites 4-H scholarship applications

More than 70 4-H scholarships are available this year to young Albertans pursuing post-secondary education in 1990-91.

"The Alberta 4-H Scholarship program has been helping many deserving students achieve their educational goals. They've earned their scholarships through their 4-H achievements, community involvement and academic standing. I encourage all past and present 4-H members eligible for these awards to take advantage this assistance," says Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan.

The 70 scholarships range in value from $100 to $1,000. In total, over $42,000 will be awarded to past and present Alberta 4-H members for the 1990-91 academic year. Scholarships are sponsored by individuals, 4-H councils, corporations, government, associations and fraternities. Over the years, many people have also contributed to various 4-H memorial scholarships.

Application forms are available from all rural high schools in Alberta, all post-secondary institutions in Alberta, regional 4-H offices, district home economists, or by writing to: 4-H Scholarships, 200 J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

4-H members, as well as non-4-Hers, who are taking agriculture, agricultural engineering, home economics or veterinary science (large animal) are also invited to apply for "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother" scholarship. Three scholarships worth $1,500 each will be awarded in 1990. These scholarship applications are available at regional 4-H offices or by writing to the 4-H branch in Edmonton.

The deadline for most 4-H scholarships is July 15. However, students applying for the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) scholarship have a May 15 deadline and June 1 is the deadline for the Petro-Canada 4-H Youth Leadership award.

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Contact: Louise Riopel
422-9156

Anita Styba
422-4444

AGRI NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

January 29, 1990
For immediate release

Conservation SWAT team coming to Alberta

You farm in south central Alberta, have a soil erosion problem on one of your best quarter sections and need practical advice on how to solve your particular soil degradation problem. Soon, a SWAT team can come to your rescue.

A Soil and Water Advisory Team (SWAT) is being formed to assist south central Alberta farmers, municipalities and local producer organizations with their soil and water conservation efforts. SWAT is a pilot project funded by the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI), a federal-provincial soil conservation program announced last summer.

"This pilot project is an example of how Alberta continues to lead the way in innovative soil and water conservation efforts. The SWAT team is a way to utilize the valuable experience of successful soil and water conservationists to support diverse soil conservation efforts. The project will endeavor to build on the respect and rapport farmers have for each other," says Shirley McClellan, Associate Minister of Agriculture.

The SWAT team members will be six farmers who have successfully implemented soil and water conservation practices on their farms. The team leader is well known soil conservationist and Hanna-area producer Norman Storch.

Storch, who proposed the project, is an active member of several soil conservation organizations. He is a longtime member of the Chinook Applied Research Association and the south central region soils management committee. He is also a member of the Alberta Agriculture Research Institute board of directors and serves as chairman of the resource conservation research committee.

As well, he has co-operated in a number of on-farm demonstration projects with his local agricultural service board, Farming for the Future and the Farmland Development and Reclamation Program.

Storch runs a grain and cattle farm in the Garden Plains district near Hanna as well as a poultry operation near Crossfield.

(Cont'd)

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Storch says he hopes the team will be fully operational by April, 1990. "We want to be able to begin assisting farmers and organizations as soon as we can.

"The project concept is based on peer support. Farmers' most common source of information is other farmers. Team members will be able to supply useful and practical information," he says.

SWAT team members will be available to farmers, municipalities and producer organizations for consultations. The team can assist farmers with on-farm planning and problem solving. Producer groups and municipalities can use the team for advice on awareness and technology transfer projects ranging from soil conservation action plans to seminars, short courses and farm meetings.

For more information about the Soil and Water Advisory Team or to use its services, call the SWAT team office at 854-5502.

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Contact: Norman Storch
854-5502

Louise Riopel
Executive assistant
to the Associate Minister
422-9156

January 29, 1990
For immediate release

Annual quilt competition finals in February

Alberta's three best quilts will be awarded prizes on February 16 to conclude the third annual Canada Packers Alberta Quilt Competition Finals.

Twenty-three quilts that qualified at agricultural society fairs across the province will be judged to determine a first, second and third place winner. (See attached list for the preliminary winners)

"Some of names on the preliminary list are familiar. Ethel Suder, of Winterburn, is one of the local winners for the the third year. She won the first competition," says Rae Hunter, who represents Alberta Agriculture on the quilt competition committee. Suder, and her husband Milton, won first place honors at two of the participating agricultural society fairs. Two other people also have two quilts in the competition. They are Mary Belanger, of Wainwright, and Goldie Berreth, of Calgary.

The competition finals activities and awards banquet will be held at the Marlborough Inn in Calagary February 15 and 16. All of the quilts will be on display at the nearby Sunridge Mall from 10 a.m. on February 16 until 5:30 p.m. the next day.

"The awards, presented at the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies banquet, are a special highlight that wind up two days of activity," says Hunter.

On February 15, a demonstration workshop is scheduled. The 60-member Bow River Quilters' Guild will run demonstrations on most facets of quilting.

Delegates, in groups of 10 to 12, will move through the various procedures after an hour-long demonstration. Machine quilting with straight and safety pin basting is one of the demonstrations. Also on the agenda are hand quilting with hoops, ratchet and pioneer frames, lap frames and the Japanese Sashiko method. Guild members will also demonstrate basting and marking techniques.

(Cont'd)

Annual quilt competition finals in February (cont'd)

The second day is a judges' workshop. Delegates will learn more about the history of quilts in agricultural fairs, new directions in quilt making, judging standards, judge certification and requirements to become a judge. Judy Villet, who has been involved with this competition as a judge, judge co-ordinator and technical advisor is one of the featured speakers. Mary Lou Scott, a certified American National Quilters' Association judge, and Agnes Boal, president of the Canadian Quilters' Association, will also offer their expertise.

The competition is presented by the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) and is co-sponsored by Canada Packers, Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and the 1990 finals host, the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. Canada Packers sponsors similar competitions in Ontario and Manitoba and has established quilt collections in each of those provinces.

Information about the competition and the events during the competition finals is available by contacting Eve-Lyn Cockle at 427-2174.

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Contact: Eve-Lyn Cockle
427-2174

Rae Hunter
427-2171

PRELIMINARY WINNERS

1989-90 CANADA PACKERS ALBERTA QUILT COMPETITION

Host Agricultural Society	Winner
COCO (Wanham)	Janet M. Jones, Grande Prairie, 532-9718
Vermilion	Mary Belanger, Wainwright, 842-5113
Hanna	Pam Jobb, Hanna, 822-2214
Vegreville	Alice Miskiw, Vegreville, 632-3458
Westlock	Audrey Wiedrick, Pickardville, 349-2077
Ranfurly	Olga Zwarich, Lavoy, 658-2331
Spruce Grove	Ethel & Milton Suder, Winterburn, 952-2570
Edgerton	Mary Belanger, Wainwright, 842-5113
Irma	Julia Matthewson, Wainwright, 842-4777
Savanna	Cotillion Crafters, Jean Umbach, Bonanza 353-2140
Elnora	Isabel Hogg, Huxley
Sedgewick	Maureen Tessman, Kinsella, 386-2208
Wetaskiwin	Annie Smith, Gwynne, 352-3478
Yellowhead	Connie Bjorquist, Jasper, 852-3066
Rocky Mountain House	Bunty Dyer, Rocky Mountain House, 845-4678
Edmonton Northlands	Ethel & Milton Suder, Winterburn, 952-2570
Bentley	Goldie Berreth, Calgary, 271-2360
Stettler	R. Maureen Neetz, Stettler, 742-5594
Medicine Hat Ex. and Stampede	Goldie Berreth, Calgary, 271-2360
Bonnyville	Muriel Jensen, Grande Centre
Camrose	Martha Hendrickson, Bittern Lake, 672-6196
Fairview	Mary Brooks, Fairview, 835-2018

January 29, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta farm market outlook discussed at Accent'90

What will affect farm prices in 1990 and beyond, takes the spotlight at the 11th annual Alberta farm outlook conference in Calgary February 27 and 28.

Accent '90 features analyses and forecasts for major agricultural markets as well as the general economy. The two-day program includes both international and domestic market outlooks. Wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, hogs and cattle outlooks for this year and trends for the decade will be discussed by an exciting line-up of expert speakers, says JoAnn Cmoluch, of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

Featured luncheon speaker during the first day is Bill Helming. He heads the Kansas-based Helming Group, the largest American private consulting firm serving agriculture, agribusiness and food industry sectors. His topic is a North American perspective on red meats in the 1990s. He will be joined in a question and answer forum by earlier speakers on the Canadian hog and cattle outlooks, Gary McMillian, president of Fletcher's Fine Foods, and Charlie Gracey, executive vice-president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

Brian Oleson, of the Canadian Wheat Board, will discuss "2001: A grain odyssey", with Richard Downey, of the National Grains Bureau, providing a Canadian wheat outlook.

Among the other outlook topics are: forage processing, special crops, oats, international oilseeds, domestic oilseeds, international feed grains, domestic barley and a comprehensive economic outlook. A special feature is the discussion of global warming and changing weather patterns with Elaine Wheaton, lead scientist with the climatology section of the Saskatchewan Research Council.

The conference managing sponsor is AgriTrends Research and Alberta Agriculture is co-sponsor. Conference brochures are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices. For more information contact, AgriTrends at 295-2995 or the market analysis branch at 427-5387.

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Contacts: JoAnn Cmoluch
427-4002

Debbie Dalton
295-2995

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January 29, 1990
For immediate release

Economic outlook part of MATFP line-up

Economic outlooks and farm tax questions will be addresed by some of the speakers at this year's Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) conference March 4 through 7 at the Kananaskis Lodge.

"The MATFP'90 planning committee has worked hard to find speakers who can provide provincial, Canadian and North American economic outlooks. The speakers will also discuss whether the Canadian economy is in for a soft or hard landing," says Paul Gervais, one of the conference organizers. "These experts are just some of the top-notch speakers in the fields of human resources, farm management, international affairs, marketing and production who will be at the conference."

Back by popular demand is economist Ron Crowe from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. Crowe will update where we are in the economic cycle and give his perspective on the stability and vulnerability to recession of the North American economy.

Also featured at the MATFP'90 conference is Ruth Getter, a senior economist with the Toronto-Dominion Bank in Toronto. She will talk about the current economic scene and present an outlook for the Canadian economy, particularly Alberta's, over the next few years. Getter will also focus on the federal government's fiscal and monetary policies and the likely effect of the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the economy.

As well, a senior representative from Finance Canada will present a session discussing the impact of the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) on agribusiness and the economy in general.

Addressing specific farm tax issues is Dereka Thibault, from the firm of Peat Marwick Thorne. Thibault will present a farm tax update dealing with changes to the current tax act and how these changes will affect tax and estate planning for Alberta farmers.

(Cont'd)

Economic outlook part of MATFP line-up (cont'd)

As well as economic and tax issues, the conference features a wide range of economic, financial, business and farm management topics. It's designed to provide an opportunity for farm couples to learn about trends, issues and challenges facing agriculture in the 1990s.

As an added bonus to the conference sessions, several pre-conference sessions will also be offered free of charge to registrants on Sunday, March 4. The pre-conference will include all-day sessions about communication and writing skills, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and goal-directed management as well as other topics.

The annual Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit conference is organized by the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with several members of the agribusiness community.

Registration fees are $125 per person, or $150 per couple. However, registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis and the conference is limited to 450 participants. Registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

For further information about the 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit conference, contact Paul Gervais or Trish Stiles in Olds at 556-4240 or write to: MATFP'90, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0 (FAX 403-556-7545).

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Stiles
556-4240

January 29, 1990
For immediate release

Tree pruning courses coming soon

Tree pruning techniques and elements of tree care are the focus of two Alberta Agriculture courses in March.

The two-day pruning courses will be offered in both Edmonton and Brooks. The Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in northeast Edmonton will run the course March 6 and 7. The Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks offers the course March 15 and 16.

Brendan Casement, nursery development officer in Edmonton, says while the course is designed for people who work on their jobs with trees, it's also open to anyone interested in learning about tree maintenance and beautification.

Six topics are looked at over the two days, starting with plant structure and tree growth. Plant hardiness is also examined along with insect and disease control related to pruning.

Pruning of three types of trees--fruit trees and shrubs, ornamental shrubs and shade trees--are featured. Casement says tools, as well as proper techniques, are discussed during the course. Participants will also get a chance to practice the pruning skills they learn.

Registration is limited to 30 people per course and pre-registration is required. The pre-registration deadline for both courses is February 23. Registration forms are available through the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, T0J 0J0 or the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3.

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Contact: Brendan Casement
472-6043

Mayumi Tanagami-Bunney
362-3391

January 29, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

SAFFLOWER GROWERS ASSOCIATION MEETING AND SEMINAR

The Alberta Safflower Growers Association is holding its annual meeting and seminar February 27 in Lethbridge. A business meeting and election of directors are part of the day's agenda. On the seminar side are topics such as weed control, a safflow agronomy update, seed-borne diseases and seed treatment, leaf diseases and head rot, variety development, marketing company updates and association programs for 1990. Admission is by membership or $10 per person. Coffee and lunch are included. The meeting is scheduled for the Agriculture Canada Conference Room at the Lethbridge Agriculture Centre. For more information, contact Blair Roth in Lethbridge at 381-5127.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING AT OLDS COLLEGE

Last month 30 members of the Airdrie 4-H Club participated at an Olds College judging clinic. During the clinic, the 4-H members placed four steers from the college's steer-a-year program and filled out judging cards. Scott Severtson, of Innisfail, judged and placed the class and presented his reasons to the 4-Hers. Jim Kubiak spoke to the club members about presenting reasons to a judge or audience. Several juniors and seniors presented their oral reasons for how they placed the steers. Michael Gillis, livestock project manager, says the clinic was so successful Olds College extension services is interested in doing similar judging clinics for other groups. "We'd like to invite other 4-H groups and Junior Associations, as well as producers and industry personnel interested in livestock judging, to call us and arrange a session." Any group interested should call the Olds College Farm at 556-8267 for more information.

ALBERTA CONFECTIONERY SUNFLOWER SCHOOL

Sunflowers are the focus of an afternoon seminar February 16

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

ALBERTA CONFECTIONERY SUNFLOWER SCHOOL (cont'd)

in Taber. Growers and potential growers, can learn more about this alternative crop at the afternoon seminar. Refe Gudiel, of the Alberta Special Crops Research Center in Brooks, will discuss variety selection. Irrigation, agronomy and sclerotinia control will be addressed by Blair Roth, special crop specialist. An overall market outlook for sunflowers in North America is also on the agenda. Tom Droog, president of Alberta Sunflowers Seeds Ltd., will present an Alberta sunflower industry outlook. The school will be at the Alberta Agriculture Taber district office. For more information, call the Taber district office at 223-7907.

LAKELAND COLLEGE BUSY ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE

A Lakeland College official will be receiving an honorary degree from a Thai college in July. Taras Saruk, the college's international development officer, will receive an honorary BSc with a major in farm mechanization from Thailand's Rajamangala Institute of Technology. Saruk's involvement with the Thailand institute began in 1986 and led to the twinning of Rajamangala Institute and Lakeland College in January, 1989. The two serve as liaisons for each other in agricultural development and foreign aid. Sarak will also represent the college, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Alberta Advanced Education and Alberta Economic Development and Trade on a six week mission leaving February 8 for Uganda, West Germany, Malaysia, South Yemen and Egypt. As well, Ted Sutton, animal science department head, left for Jordon January 17 to work on a competency based curriculum development project. For more information, contact Saruk at 853-8579 or Cathy Bishop at 853-8529.

WESTERN CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE

The Western Canadian Society for Horticulture will holds its 46th annual meeting February 11 through 15 in Saskatoon. Its 1990 conference

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

WESTERN CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE (cont'd)
theme is educating and training horticulturists in Western Canada. Along with a council meeting and an awards luncheon, the conference also features an ecological horticulture workshop. For more information call Betty Vladicka in Edmonton at 472-6043.

"JOLT" GENETICS GO INTERNATIONAL

A two-year-old Aberdeen Angus bull will have progeny from his first calf crop travelling around the world to new homes in three countries. The bull, JOLT 4W, sired four bull calves and one heifer going to Scotland, England, Australia. One of the foreign customers, Black Gold Genetics of Palmers Island in Queensland, Australia is considered a leader in that country for its use of embryo transfers. The young bull it purchased is the first young herdsire the company has imported. Three Alberta firms--Northline Angus of Bruderheim, Miller Angus of Bashaw and Fisher Angus of Sherwood Park--produced the calves sold through Selex Trading Ltd. For more information call Selex in Edmonton at 455-7161.

HOLISTIC AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT COURSE

"Restoring the land while increasing profits and enhancing productivity..." Sound too good to be true? Holistic resource management, a five day course at Lakeland College in Vermilion February 19 through 23, is a practical approach to combining land, people and capital for a sustained, profitable environment. For details, contact Bob Brad, extension and research manager, at 853-8583.

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Meat month focuses on supply safety

The facts and fiction of our meat supply's safety is the featured topic at two seminars during national meat month in Alberta.

"The seminars will address a lot of questions people have: whether there really is a problem with meat safety, the actual problem for consumers, why the reality and perception don't match and why wrong perceptions are dangerous for everyone involved in the food system," says Kathy Keeler, a member of the meat month planning committee.

Ronald Ball will be the main speaker at the seminars February 28 in Calgary and March 1 in Edmonton. Ball is an assistant professor at the University of Guelph's animal and poultry science department and the University of Toronto's human nutrition section of the faculty of medicine. His presentation will include data from the Agriculture Canada Residue Testing Program, the regulations required for approval of new agricultural products and research on the effects of various products in meat.

"Meat packers, processors and retailers are the target audience for these seminars. By arming them with the facts, they can help restore consumer confidence," says Keeler, of the Beef Information Centre.

Each province has tailored its activities to fit the area of the industry they feel is critical. Alberta and Ontario have chosen food safety, other provinces are highlighting nutrition and product promotion.

In the past, awareness activities have focused on promoting meat, but other issues have surfaced in the last few years, says Keeler. One such issue has been misinformation about red meat's role in our diet. Concerns about fat and cholesterol and their link to heart disease made some people strike red meat from their diet.

"It's a misconception about the healthfulness of red meats. In the preliminary results of a new national study of fat and fiber, consumers say they perceive red meats as the major source of fat in their diets. Their perception isn't right," says Keeler.

(Cont'd)

In fact, 1986 Agriculture Canada data shows that "add-on" fats such as salad dressing and deep-fat frying in oils are the major source of Canadians' dietary fat. Add-on fats total a 33 per cent intake, compared to a combined 18 per cent for beef, pork and other meat products.

"As part of National Meat Month, we have a brochure with a handy 'fat finder' table. It compares foods in all the food groups and gives easy ways to reduce fat intake. Sometimes the difference is as simple as trimming fat from your meat," she says.

The organizing committee for meat month in Alberta includes representatives from Alberta Agriculture, the Canadian Meat Council, the Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation, the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission, the Alberta Cattle Commission and the Beef Information Centre.

For more information about the luncheon seminars, contact Keeler at the Beef Information Centre in Calgary at 275-5890 or Bill Owen at the Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation at 474-8288. Attendance at the seminars is by invitation.

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Contact: Kathy Keeler
275-5890

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 5, 1990
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Evaluation, education improve animal welfare

Evaluation and education was an approach to animal welfare issues suggested to delegates at the recent Alberta Beef Symposium.

University of Illinois professor Harold Gonyou told his audience a positive approach was key to finding solutions to the perception problem the whole agriculture industry has faced in the last few years.

Evaluation starts with the farmer he says. "I think individual producers should examine their own operation and ask themselves if there is anything in their operation that they can do to reduce the pain the animals perceive, reduce any suffering that occurs and handle their animals more gently, yet still get the work done."

Gonyou says this evaluation isn't changing management practices, but improving them so there is less stress for the livestock. Sometimes the improvement can be as small as lengthening a sow farrowing crate by a few inches, he says.

The industry also has to evaluate itself and ask questions about generally accepted management practices. Gonyou points to branding and castration as examples, and says research is required to answer questions about these practices. Research would examine other types of identification rather than hot branding, whether freeze branding is less painful and the effectiveness of double ear tagging. While it's unlikely North American markets will raise bulls instead of steers, research could look at that possibility as well as determining the best age for castration and best technique to minimize distress to the animal.

Gonyou also advocates the industry develop its own animal welfare guidelines. At the same time, farmers and the industry have to balance information presented to the public by educating them about why certain management practices are used and are in the animal's interest.

(Cont'd)

"You have to educate people for both their sake and the animal's," he says. Castration, for example, makes an animal more docile and easier for the producer to handle as well as making it less likely for it to injure itself or other cattle.

Gonyou says it's important for farmers to distinguish between animal welfare and animal rights. Animal welfare is relieving the level of physical and mental pain and suffering of an animal. Welfare includes issues of abuse, neglect and deprivation. Areas of concern include factory farming and transportation.

Animal welfare doesn't address the use or right to use animals. Its main emphasis is on the condition of the animal and how to improve conditions. On the other hand, animal rights is a belief that animals have the right to life and a natural existence undisturbed by humans.

"We're never going to reach a situation where we can say our animals are in perfect welfare. But we can always be in a situation to improve them, and we've been doing better than we used to. And I think if we take that attitude of continuously trying to improve--that's our best approach.

"We will never satisfy everyone. Some people, just on the basis of their philosophy on the use of animals, will never accept the concept of using animals in agriculture for food, for wool, for other products. They simply won't accept that on a philosophical basis, even if the animals are well taken care of," he says.

As societies develop, they have always tried to improve animal welfare, he says. Those changes don't come overnight, but evolve with the society's economic condition. He cites the differences between a developing nation such as Kenya, where he recently spent some time, and the Netherlands. In the developing nation, more priority is given to producing enough food, than the state of the animal's welfare. For example, Gonyou witnessed animals not being stunned before they were butchered. In the Netherlands, consumers pay a premium price for eggs **not** produced in a battery cage environment.

(Cont'd)

He says animal welfare awareness has increased in the last decade in North America. Improving animal conditions has gone from identifying problems to significant research in improving animal welfare.

Guidelines of the British Codes of Welfare for Farm Animals are the basis for current discussions of conditions in the Alberta cattle industry. The Alberta Cattle Commission has a brochure on the issue that discusses these "five freedoms". They include: freedom from malnutrition, freedom from thermal or physical discomfort, freedom from injury and disease, freedom from fear and freedom to express most normal socially acceptable patterns of behavior.

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February 5, 1990
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Tripartite sugar beet payments approved

The National Tripartite Sugar Beet Stabilization committee recently approved payments of nearly $2.76 million for the 1988 crop.

Participating Alberta and Manitoba sugar beet producers will receive $3.59 per standard tonne less a premium adjustment, says Lloyd Andruchow, program administrator with Alberta Agriculture. This payment is based on the difference between the support price of $38.95 per standard tonne and the national average market return of $35.36 per standard tonne.

The national committee also determined the 1988 premium as 86 cents per standard tonne. The rate is based on a premium of three per cent of the average market return in the current year and the preceding two years. Through an initial premium deduction during the 1988 harvest, Alberta producers have already contributed 56 cents. With a final adjustment of 30 cents per standard tonne deducted from their payment, Alberta producers will net $3.29 per standard tonne. Total payments to producers will be nearly $1.9 million.

Sugar beets are harvested on a field tonne basis and then converted to standard tonnes based on sugar extraction. A standard tonne of sugar beets represents the amount required to produce 125 kilograms of sugar. The average field tonne of sugar beets harvested in 1988 in Alberta produced about 133.5 kg of sugar compared to 142.5 kg in Manitoba. Alberta sugar production in 1988 was 68.6 per cent of the national total.

Producers, along with the provincial and federal governments, contribute equally to the national sugar beet stabilization fund.

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Contact: Lloyd Andruchow
422-5672

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-212

February 5, 1990
For immediate release

Environmental issues, geopolitics addressed by MATFP speaker

Soil erosion and toxicity in the water and soil, not global warming, are the major environmental issues of the 1990s says one of the keynote speakers who will be at the 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) conference.

"The diversion of policy and money away from these problems towards climate are ultimately detrimental to the farmer," says Tim Ball, an associate professor at the University of Winnipeg who specializes in climatology.

Back by popular demand, Ball will present two sessions at the MATFP conference March 4 through 7 at the Kananaskis Lodge. One session is a Greenhouse effect update. "The evidence is growing that global warming is due to solar activity and not human action," says Ball. Decreased solar activity is predicted in 1991 and will begin a trend to cooler temperatures, he says.

The real problems are soil erosion and toxic buildup in the soil and water, he says. "Soil erosion has the most devastating effects for agriculture, while water shortages will affect the whole of society."

Ball says redirecting the focus of policy makers away from the Greenhouse effect is a "difficult task in a society that is blissfully unaware of the problems faced by agriculture".

His second session will deal with geopolitics and understanding the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

"Dealing with drought, falling prices and withdrawal of government commitments are difficult enough challenges without the larger uncertainties of the impact of the Free Trade Agreement and GATT.

"Geopolitics attempts to put these international events and current situations into a global context for individual farmers seeking to market their products in a global marketplace," he says.

(Cont'd)

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Environmental issues, geopolitics addressed by MATFP speaker (cont'd)

Ball adds, only by understanding global geography and history can Canadian farmers put world markets, global competitors and government actions into perspective.

Other timely topics, such as sustainable agriculture and farm tax issues will also be featured along with a wide range of other financial, management and human resource topics. The conference is designed to provide an opportunity to farm couples to learn more about trends, issues and challenges facing agriculture in the 1990s.

As an added bonus to the conference sessions, several pre-conference sessions will also be offered free of charge to registrants on Sunday, March 4. The pre-conference will include all-day sessions about communication and writing skills, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and goal-directed management for the family and farm business.

The annual Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit conference is organized by the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with several members of the agribusiness community.

Registration fees are $125 per person, or $150 per couple. However, registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis and the conference is limited to 450 participants. Registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

For further information about the 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit conference, contact Paul Gervais or Trish Stiles in Olds at 556-4240 or write to: MATFP'90, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0 (FAX 403-556-7545).

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Stiles
556-4240

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 5, 1990
For immediate release

Enter pork carcass competition

An annual Alberta Pork Congress competition challenges pork producers to meet the bottom line of successful production: the best carcass in a limited time.

"Pork producers have until February 28 to enter the annual barrow carcass contest to produce the best pig in a set time frame, and it pays very good dividends to the winner," says Art Lange, of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch. Lange is also chairman of the congress swine committee.

Last year the average selling price for the top ten carcasses was $1,900. The first place carcass sold for $4,000. The competitor gets the selling price minus a 20 per cent commission taken by the congress. "Compared to a current market price of about $100, the competitors are well rewarded for their efforts," he says.

Competition rules are simple. Producers have to fill out an entry form and pay a $25 entry fee by February 28. All hog producers in Alberta are eligible to compete. Entries from outside the province are also welcome.

The competition begins when the pigs are weighed and tagged on farms by provincial swine technicians. Weighing and tagging will take place between March 26 and April 6. Pigs must not weigh more than 35 kg (77 lbs.) at that time. The farmer then has until June 11 to raise the pig to a market weight of 100 kg (220 lbs.).

On June 12, the pigs will be butchered and the carcasses graded by Agriculture Canada inspectors. The eight pigs that score the highest combination of points for carcass quality and growth rate are brought to the Alberta Pork Congress banquet on June 13 to be auctioned.

Entry forms and additional information about the contest are available from the Alberta Pork Congress office in Red Deer at 340-5307 or Lange at 427-5319.

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Contact: Art Lange
427-5319

February 5, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture Appointments

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN FORT VERMILION

Tom Schuler is the new Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Fort Vermilion. Schuler joins the department after completing his MSc at the University of Saskatchewan. Majoring in canola genetics and breeding, he worked with Dave Hutchinson and Keith Downey at the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Saskatoon. Schuler's BSc degree in agriculture (1985) was also from the University of Saskatchewan. After his 1985 graduation, he worked with Esso Petroleum in several positions including agency supervisor, managing the agency network on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains from High River to Rocky Mountain House. Raised in the Lethbridge area, Schuler has a strong farming background. "I'm looking forward to serving the agricultural community in Improvement District 23," he says. He can be contacted at the Fort Vermilion district office at 927-3712.

TOM SCHULER

CONSERVATION AWARENESS SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Barbara Shackel has joined Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch in a new position, a conservation awareness specialist. Shackel will develop, prepare and co-ordinate awareness materials for the Canada-Alberta soil conservation agreements and the conservation and development branch. "I'll also be taking the conservation message to rural municipalities, producer groups, other

(Cont'd)

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST APPOINTED (cont'd)

government department staff and the general public," she says. Before joining the department, Shackel was agricultural fieldman in the Municipal District of Brazeau, where she organized and administered its agricultural service board programs. Shackel graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BSc in agriculture in 1986. She is currently working on her MSc in soil science and says she expects to complete the degree this spring. She was raised on a mixed farming operation near Killarney, Manitoba. Killarney is in southwest Manitoba, south of Brandon. Shackel can be contacted in Edmonton at 422-4385.

BARBARA SHACKEL

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 5, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

TRADE, DOMESTIC POLICY, ENVIRONMENT, '90S CHALLENGES FOR BEEF INDUSTRY

International trade policy and changes in Canadian agricultural policy will be two of major issues facing the beef industry in the next decade says the Alberta Cattle Commission's manager. Environmental issues, public attitudes about agriculture and livestock production, food safety, market and market development, land use and research are the other major challenges facing the industry, says Dennis Laycraft. "While many of these changes seem far removed from the farm, they will almost certainly have an influence on how we will produce and market food to the world," he told delegates at the Alberta Beef Symposium in Edmonton. He says if beef is allowed to trade freely and fairly around the world, than producers can support removing restrictions. If not, then Canada has to protect its beef industry from becoming a dumping ground. Environment-driven policy is likely in the 1990s he says, and the beef industry has to tell its positive story to the public or find itself putting out the fire of misconception. He also challenged "anyone to refute that Canada has perhaps the safest food supply in the world." Research is required to look at specific concerns in almost all areas of the industry, he says.

ZONE 3 PULSE PRODUCERS ANNUAL MEETING

The value of peas in sustainable agriculture is one of the topics on the table at a March 1 meeting of zone 3 pulse producers in Morinville. Richard Johnson of Environment Canada will discuss the role of peas in sustainable agriculture. Results from 1989 on-farm demonstrations are also scheduled, along with discussions of a European feed pea mission, field pea disease and feed pea user survey results. A business meeting, with director reports and election of directors, is also on the agenda. Registration for the one-day program is $10. Please pre-register by calling John Hladky at the Alberta Agriculture Morinville district office at 939-4351.

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WITH DUGOUT AERATION

Many farmers and acreage residents use dugout and surface water ponds for a water supply. One way to keep water from turning black and smelly is to pump air into the water. The oxygen helps the water stay in better condition under the ice. The bubbling air rises to the surface and can melt the ice or make it dangerously thin, so staying off these dugouts during the winter is a safety precaution. When skating, snowmobiling or skiing, be aware of the hazards and keep your winter recreation safe.

VALUE-BASED MARKETING

While other pundits say biotechnology will be the next agricultural revolution, Gary Haley predicts the next revolution will be in marketing. In at the recent Alberta Beef Symposium, Haley said there's danger in using biotechnology only to produce more of the same product. The president of Canada West Trading Corporation says that will compound existing problems of agricultural surpluses and cyclical markets. Instead, biotechnology must be used to improve the quality of products and their appropriateness in individual marketplaces. He says Western Canada has an enormous growth potential for processing foods, especially products for niche markets. However, markets first have to be identified. Entrepreneurs looking to new markets can't leave home without a competitive advantage and most likely that advantage will be in a unique or differentiated product, he says. Branded products, such as Alberta beef, is one example. But creating a "branded" product takes a lot of time and money. Bob Porter, of Premier Meats in Calgary, agreed specialization will be important in both domestic and offshore markets. Marketing, he says, is how to get ahead and it's also the responsibility of producers to get involved in marketing efforts.

AGRI-NEWS

February 12, 1990

For immediate release

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February 12, 1990
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Positive year behind, ahead in cattle industry

Short supplies of slaughter cattle in the United States will keep that market hot into March, and perhaps even April, says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst in his latest quarterly Livestock Situation and Outlook report.

"Slaughter steers should trade in a $78 to $82/cwt. range in major American direct trade markets through most of this period. It's also likely new record high prices will be established in many U.S. markets during this period," says Ron Gietz. The long term supply picture is favorable, he adds. The American beef herd is just entering a period of herd expansion, but producers are still cautious about increasing herd size.

Gietz says first quarter 1990 prices for slaughter steers will range between $84 and $88/cwt. Second and third quarter prices will be slightly lower at $79 to $83 for the Alberta direct sale steer trade.

He says recent developments in the value of the Canadian dollar bode well for Alberta cattle producers. "If the current slide in the value of the Canadian dollar continues, and the Canada/U.S. exchange rate trends towards 80 cents by the end of 1990, Alberta cattle feeders will enjoy record high prices in 1990.

"Even an 82 to 83 cent dollar during the second half of 1990, as is predicted in the current futures markets, would make a major difference to returns in the cattle business." He adds a lower Canadian dollar would benefit both the Alberta feeder and slaughter markets.

A high Canadian dollar countered the positive effects of record high cattle prices in the United States during 1989. The net result was relatively good, but not record, prices for Alberta slaughter and feeder cattle during 1989.

The average price last year for A-grade direct sale slaughter steers in Alberta, as tabulated by Canfax, was $81.52/cwt. This is the second highest annual average steer price recorded by Canfax. Only the 1987 average of $83.45 was higher.

(Cont'd)

Positive year behind, ahead in cattle industry (cont'd)

The record Alberta slaughter and feeder cattle prices of 1987 occurred when the value of the Canadian dollar averaged around 76 cents American, compared to over 85 cents in 1989.

Canadian beef production increased by two per cent last year. The Canadian beef herd has been growing since 1986. Among the other major trends last year was a continuation of the shift in location of cattle slaughter.

This long-term trend included five per cent more slaughter in Alberta. Packing industry restructuring also saw more slaughter in Saskatchewan and British Columbia with decreased slaughter in Manitoba (32 per cent) and Ontario (four per cent). Five federally inspected cattle slaughtering plants closed their doors in Ontario, while small to mid-sized packers across Canada cut back their kills sharply.

Other trends in 1989 were high volumes of cow slaughter, declining heifer slaughter and continued large slaughter cattle exports.

The final tally of Alberta slaughter cattle exports for 1989 was impressive, says Gietz. At 203,733 head, 1989 shipments to the United States were second only to the record volume of 222,131 head in 1988. "Western U.S. buyers continue to demonstrate an interest in Alberta cattle and a significant number of Alberta feedlots have decided to target their production to the U.S. market," he says. Despite Alberta's growing slaughter capacity, Gietz predicts a substantial volume of slaughter cattle, in excess of 100,000 head, will continue to go south. One reason is an expected shortage of fed cattle, particularly in the northwest states. Declining tariffs on live cattle and barriers to high quality Canadian beef will also keep live export numbers high, he says.

Feeder calf prices last fall were disappointing, says Gietz. Calf prices lagged two to three dollars below 1988 prices. A larger calf crop, an anticipated early peak in the fed cattle market in 1990 and higher interest rates contributed to the lower prices, he says.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

February 12, 1990
For immediate release

Mixed outlook for Alberta hog producers

North American slaughter hog prices are expected to run well above 1989 levels through the first half of 1990, although the outlook is for prices to slip in the second half of the year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The U.S. outlook sets the stage for a reasonably good year for Alberta hog prices, particularly in comparison to market returns in the past two years," says Ron Gietz in the quarterly Livestock Situation and Outlook report. "Producer payments for slaughter hogs could quite conceivably average 10 per cent higher than the low prices seen in 1988 and 1989."

A favorable shift in the Canadian-American exchange rate towards a lower Canadian dollar would also support higher prices to Alberta hog producers, he adds.

There is a dark cloud on the horizon, the scheduled February 13 close of Fletchers' Red Deer hog slaughtering facility. "If Fletchers' does carry through with the plant closure, producers can expect an immediate reduction in market returns comparable to the estimated $5 per hog losses sustained during the last shutdown of that plant," he says.

Average Alberta producer payments are expected at between $59 and $64/cwt. in the first quarter. The second quarter average range is expected at between $62 and $67/cwt. and the third quarter at $61 to $66. Price swings outside these ranges are expected, particularly in the second quarter, he says.

Strong prices at the beginning of this year were a continuation of strong North American slaughter hog prices in the final quarter of 1989. Producer payment prices for Index 100 hogs in Alberta averaged $61.24/cwt. during the fourth quarter of 1989 compared to only $51.12/cwt. during the previous year. "The mid-1988 to mid-1989 period will be remembered as one of the worst periods for market returns to Alberta slaughter hog producers in the last 15 years," he says.

(Cont'd)

Mixed outlook for Alberta hog producers (cont'd)

In mid-December 1989 Eastern Canadian hog prices plummeted, pulling prices in Western Canada down. A price slide at this time isn't uncommon in Canadian slaughter hog markets. Typically, a decline in processor demand accounts for the price reduction. In 1989, the price slide was unusually severe and prices didn't begin to recover until well into January, says Gietz.

The proportionately larger price decline in eastern markets resulted in a much wider than average spread between Ontario and American markets at the beginning of the year. "For the first time since the original imposition of a countervailing duty on pork exports in May, it may be correct to claim that Canadian hog markets, or more correctly Eastern Canadian hog markets, were adversely affected by the levy," Gietz says.

Production trends in the final quarter of 1989 confirmed that Canadian hog production has stabilized, he says. Hog production in the last three months of 1989 was one per cent below production for the same quarter in 1988. This was the first time in over three years Canadian slaughter hog output fell below output in the year-ago quarter. Trends do vary considerably between the provinces.

In general, Alberta hog production levels have changed more gradually than production in the other two Prairie provinces, indicating a more stable production base in Alberta. Last year provincial production was four per cent more than in 1988.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
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February 12, 1990
For immediate release

Sheep slaughter up in 1989

The average bid range for slaughter lambs in Alberta should increase slowly through the first quarter, but isn't expected to rise substantially until the end of March says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Continued strong domestic lamb supplies should keep import numbers down during the early part of the first quarter," says JoAnn Cmoluch in the quarterly Livestock Situation and Outlook report.

Projected Lambco bid ranges for the first quarter are for between $71 and $74/cwt. The second quarter range is expected at $75 to $78/cwt.

With Easter and Passover two weeks later this year, producers will have extra time to ready new crop lambs for market, she adds.

Last year, Alberta's overall inspected slaughter was up 10 per cent over 1988. This followed the Canadian trend of an overall increase of 12.7 per cent in 1989 compared to 1988. Ontario posted the most significant increase at 22 per cent.

Sheep and lamb markets in Canada and the United States didn't follow the typical seasonal trend of rising prices due to declining supplies at the end of 1989. "Faced with declining prices, processor-owned feedlots in the United States fed lambs to heavier weights in order to minimize their losses from paying high prices for feeder lambs. This strategy caused the total U.S. lamb supply to rise and put further pressure on Canadian prices," says Cmoluch.

During the fourth quarter, Alberta live lamb prices followed an unseasonable trend by continuing to decline early in November and held steady throughout the rest of 1989.

Also in last year's final quarter, exports of live slaughter lambs from Alberta to American markets increased over the same period in 1988 by nearly 57 per cent to 1,645 head. Total 1989 exports however, were down by nearly half.

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Contact: JoAnn Cmoluch
427-4002

February 17, 1990
For immediate release

Annual poultry industry conference focus on turbulent times

Concerns about the future in their supply-managed industry have given a theme of "turbulent times" to the 39th annual Alberta poultry industry conference later this month in Red Deer.

Expected to address their concerns is a late addition to their program agenda, federal agriculture minister Don Mazankowski. Mazankowski will speak to conference delegates on the afternoon of the last day of conference February 28.

"GATT negotiations and the minister's 'Growing Together' discussion paper on the future of the agri-food industry certainly are concerns of poultry producers and it's expected Mr. Mazankowski will discuss both of these issues," says Tom Sydness, head of Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch.

The conference includes annual meetings of the Alberta Turkey Growers Marketing Board, the Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board and the Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board. The Alberta Chicken Producers Marketing Board will hold a producer information session.

A variety of expert speakers will also make presentations to the meeting delegates. Among the topics are: vaccination management systems for fowl cholera, diagnosis of fertility and hatchability problems, hypertension and ascitis in poultry, supply management and international trade and leg weakness problems in broilers.

For more information about the conference February 26 through February 28, contact the poultry branch at 427-5090.

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Contact: Tom Sydness
427-5090

February 12, 1990
For immediate release

Provincial agroclimatic atlas now available

Climate variability is an element of risk farmers have to build into their everyday and long-term decisions, and with a new Alberta Agriculture publication, they have another tool for understanding climate and weather.

"The Agroclimatic Atlas of Alberta is a specialized atlas geared to the unique interests of agricultural producers. The atlas provides a summary of many climate elements farmers would find both interesting and helpful," says Peter Dzikowski, Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist and one of the booklet's authors.

The 31-page booklet starts with a general overview of climate and weather across the province. It also describes how weather and climate data is collected. Specific climate elements of interest to farmers are examined. These include precipitation, temperature, heat units, frost free periods and length of the growing season.

As well, the atlas includes 17 maps that present information about long term average precipitation, frost dates, heat units and monthly temperatures.

Copies of the atlas are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices. It can also be ordered through the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 071-1.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

February 17, 1990
For immediate release

Seminar highlights goat herd health

A one-day seminar in Westlock February 24 will feature a teleconference on practical goat herd health care.

Sponsored by the Chevon Producers Division of the Alberta Goat Breeders Association, the seminar looks at a variety of issues in herd health. Following the presentations there will be a chevon producers meeting including an election of officers.

Activities begin with a look at herd health through nutrition. Dale Engstrom, an Alberta Agriculture nutritionist, will discuss this topic and answer producer questions.

The day's main feature is a teleconference with Don Bailey, a veterinarian in central Oregon with a large sheep and goat practice. Seminar participants will see his slide presentation focused on practical tips. "Dr. Bailey will be able to speak and answer questions via long-distance. It's a lively and exciting way of taking advantage of this outstanding speaker on goat health," says Joyce Schadenk, one of the association's directors.

Also on the agenda is Corine Spitzer, a Westlock veterinarian, who will discuss using your veterinarian effectively.

Chevon (goat meat) has had strong demand and return in the last few years, says Schadenk. Meat goats are one of three types found in Alberta. Producers also have had success with dairy and angora goats.

Chevon division members can register at $10 per person or $12 for a family. Non-member registration is $25. More information is available from Ken Smith at 365-2080 (Smoky Lake), Donna Krushell 349-2551 (Westlock) or Joyce Schadenk 339-2153 (Tomahawk).

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Contact: Ken Smith
365-2080

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 12, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

SPACE STILL AVAILABLE FOR MATFP'90 CONFERENCE

Space is still available for participants at the 1990 Managing Agriculture Technology for Profit (MATFP) conference March 4 through 7 at the Kananaskis Lodge. Timely topics featured at this year's conference include sustainable agriculture, farm tax issues and the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Production, marketing, financial and human resource and other farm business management topics are in the spotlight at the annual conference. The conference is designed to provide an opportunity for farm couples to learn more about trends, issues and challenges facing agriculture in the 1990s. As an added bonus to the conference sessions, several pre-conference sessions will also be offered free of charge to registrants on Sunday, March 4. The annual MATFP conference is organized by the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with several members of the agribusiness community. Registration fees are $125 per person, or $150 per couple. However, registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis and the conference is limited to 450 participants. Registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices. For further information about the MATFP'90 conference, contact Paul Gervais or Trish Stiles in Olds at 556-4240 or write to: MATFP'90, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0 (FAX 403-556-7545).

CONSERVATION FARMER AND GROUP RECOGNIZED

Provincial soil conservation awards were presented for the first time this year to a producer and organization for their leadership and innovation in conservation. Henry Graw, of Manning, is the first winner of the Conservation Farmer Award and the Stanislaw Sandblasters Conservation Society is the first winner of the Group Conservation Award. The awards are sponsored by the Alberta Conservation Tillage

(Cont'd)

CONSERVATION FARMER AND GROUP RECOGNIZED (cont'd)

Society (ACTS) and the Western Producer. They were presented at the ACTS annual meeting in Red Deer last month. Shirley McClellan, Alberta's Associate Minister of Alberta, presented the awards. Graw, a conservation farmer for 25 years, designed and built his own conservation seed drill. Through his conservation practices, he has improved the structure and quality of his soils and maintained grassed waterways to minimize soil erosion. Graw has also promoted soil conservation through presentations at workshops and seminars and by hosting farm tours. The Stanislaw Sandblasters are a relatively new soil conservation society in the Vegreville area, but one that has been very active from its formation in 1988. By recognizing conservation farmers and groups, ACTS hopes it can spread more awareness about conservation and conservation management, says president Spencer Hilton. Nominations for the 1991 awards will be called this summer. For more information, contact Garth Cochran at 274-0563.

LITTLE ROYAL AT LAKELAND COLLEGE

Lakeland College's Vermilion campus is hosting its Little Royal open house March 15 through 18. Programs highlight the variety of educational opportunities available at the college. Displays and wise-up workshops will run on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. Special events include a bull test open house on Friday, a 4-H and college agricultural judging competition on Friday, a horse show on Saturday and intercollegiate rodeo on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call Lakeland College in Vermilion at 853-8400.

CANOLA PRODUCERS COMMISSION HOST REGIONAL MEETINGS

During February and March the Alberta Canola Producers Commission is holding a series of meetings across the province. The meetings will feature information on marketing, canola crop production, new varieties, disease control and discussions about the new commission itself. The first meeting was in Big Valley on February 8 and the series concludes in Brooks on March 15. Other meetings are in: High

(Cont'd)

CANOLA PRODUCERS COMMISSION HOSTS REGIONAL MEETINGS (cont'd)

Prairie, February 20; Fairview, February 21; Sexsmith, February 22; Westlock, March 5; Vermilion and Vegreville, March 6; Strathmore, March 7; Bow Island, March 12; Vulcan, March 13; Lethbridge, March 14; and Brooks, March 15. The meetings are jointly organized and sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Alberta canola crushing companies, chemical and grain companies and other local organizations and industries. For more information, contact your local district agriculturist, an Alberta Canola Producers Commission director or the commission office at 452-6487.

PEACE COUNTRY CLASSIC MARCH 8-10

The 1990 edition of the Peace Country Classic Agrishow in Grande Prairie has a new look with a changed format. The fifth annual show includes a new "family-world" section. A food fair, family oriented seminars, two fashion shows, a 'tots time out' area and commercial and cottage industry display booths will be held in Clarkson Hall. The horse program has doubled its events from 1989. A glamour parade, dressage demonstration, cutting horse and reining demonstration, a parade of breed stallions, pony driving, miniature pony events and farrier demonstration are all part of the action. Something new is a team penning competition. The Classic's agriculture trade show is scheduled to have a record number of booths with daily door prizes and major prize packages. A purebred cattle show and sale and seed fair round out the major activities. For more information, contact Gerald Rutberg at 532-2286 or Dennis Tink at 532-3949 in Grande Prairie.

ZONE 3 PULSE PRODUCERS ANNUAL MEETING

The value of peas in sustainable agriculture is one of the topics at a March 1 meeting of zone three pulse producers in Morinville. Richard Johnson of the Alberta Environmental Centre will discuss the role of pulses in sustainable agriculture. Please pre-register by calling John Hladky at the Alberta Agriculture Morinville district office at 939-4351.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

Coming Agricultural Events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **April, May, June or later in 1990?**. Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization/contact/telephone number):

Please return this form by **February 21, 1990** to:

Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed **March 5, 1990**.)

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

MAR - 6 1990

February 19, 1990

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

February 19, 1990
For immediate release

Take safety precautions during calving, lambing

Newborn calves and lambs not only have to confront often bitterly cold weather at their birth, but also the danger of predation says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"During calving and lambing, farmers should take extra safety precautions to ensure protection of their stock, because this season is also the high point of predation," says John Bourne, regional problem wildlife supervisor in Vermilion.

Precautionary measures include frequent inspections, bringing livestock closer to home if possible and placing animals in well-fenced quarters. "These steps will not only provide protection from predation but make the farmer more able to spot birthing problems," he adds.

Coyotes are the most common predators farmers worry about, he says. "Coyotes will prey, not only on the newborn and very young, but also occasionally on mature animals, particularly those giving birth. That's another reason why producers need to be alert during calving and lambing seasons."

Producers may see more coyotes at this time of year because it's their breeding season. "Coyotes are more active during their month long mating season. It's starting now, so people are more likely to see them on the move and see them in large numbers," he says.

As well, the coyote population in Alberta is high again this year, which may increase predation, he says. More coyotes are around for a number of reasons. A relatively high mouse and rabbit population, a series of open, mild winters and reduced trapping because of low fur prices may have contributed to a higher coyote population.

"Landowners are allowed to shoot coyotes at any time of the year on their own property and with wise use of a firearm can keep potentially lurking predators away," he says.

(Cont'd)

Farmers should also carefully and quickly dispose of all dead livestock, afterbirth and other animal remains. "Coyotes are scavengers and dead animals constitute a major portion of their winter diet," reminds Bourne.

Farmers can call local livestock haulers or a rendering plant to remove dead animals. They can also bury or cover animal remains with lime to minimize their attraction to coyotes. Livestock Diseases Act regulations require farmers dispose of dead animal carcasses within 48 hours of death, he adds.

For more information about dealing with coyote problems, producers should call their municipal agricultural service board fieldman.

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Contact: John Bourne
853-8109

February 19, 1990
For immediate release

Be alert to feed additive hazards

Livestock and pet owners should be alert to the potential hazard of feeding livestock the wrong rations, or forcing animals to eat feed they don't like, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"The danger occurs when one type of livestock is given feed formulated for another type. We've run into a few cases where animals were severely affected by getting the wrong type of feed," says Roy Smith, a laboratory scientist who specializes in toxicology.

As well, he adds, there have been instances where animals died after the owners unknowingly gave them little choice but to eat feed that was later found to contain toxic additives.

Smith advises farmers to check before they mix rations designed for different classes of livestock and to switch to a different feed if animals turn their noses up at the one they are offered.

"The two rules of thumb are: one animal's meat may be another animal's poison; and, trust your animal's judgement," says the specialist with the animal health division.

A variety of natural and man-made substances are added to animal feeds for good and justifiable reasons, he says. But he cautions, "An additive which is beneficial to the intended animal may well be very harmful if offered to a different type of animal."

One of the most common examples observed at the lab are sheep poisoned by copper after they are offered a ration designed for cattle. Sheep are extremely sensitive to copper. Another common situation is when a turkey producer runs out of turkey feed and decides to feed broiler rations for a short time. The result is usually the loss of hundreds of birds, he says.

While a producer who doesn't realize the difference between the two rations can cause a problem, it's not the only possibility. Occasionally, the problem occurs when the feed is processed.

(Cont'd)

"Sometimes a feed company switches from the production of one animal feed to another without thoroughly cleaning their equipment and then the product will be contaminated by residues of feed additives.

"One of the most common situations involves a class of feed additives known as ionophores, which are very beneficial for cattle and chickens, but very hazardous to dogs, horses, pigs and many other animals," he says.

Smith says producers can avoid this problem by watching for clues from their animals. Typically, danger arises when animals initially refuse a new batch of feed, but given no other choice are eventually forced to eat the rations.

"Recently a pork producer lost several pigs which were reluctant to eat a new batch of feed. However, the producer's dog was happy to eat the pig feed and it too, died.

"Feed refusal, especially in the case of a new batch of feed, should be regarded seriously," he says. An alternative feed should be offered promptly and the refused feed should be removed and returned to the dealer or retailer, he adds.

Alberta Agriculture's toxicology laboratory in Edmonton has developed methods for analyzing most approved feed additives. Smith says the lab is able to offer analysis for many common additives. For more information, call him at 427-3981.

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Contact: Roy Smith
427-3981

February 19, 1990
For immediate release

Latest home study course focuses on business planning

Economic pressures can make it necessary for many farm families to consider their alternatives and find an additional source of family income.

"One alternative is a home-based business. But often if you want to start a business, even if you're sure what you want to do, you need some advice and guidance," says Faye Douglas Phillips, of Alberta Agriculture's home study program. "All this is available in our newest home study course about home-based business."

"Home-Based Business, Opportunities for Farm Families" is an introductory course dealing with personal, financial, legal and marketing aspects of starting a small business. It covers basic business principles and provides information on available resources.

"It's an excellent resource if you do contract work, act as a consultant, produce a product or provide some kind of service. It's also a good place to start for anyone thinking about going into business," says Douglas Phillips.

Emphasis in the course is put on developing a business plan. Step-by-step progression through the exercises at the end of each chapter develop the background information required to put a business plan together. A suggested outline for a complete business plan is provided at the end of the course.

"Like all Alberta Agriculture home studies, this course is designed so you can work through it at your own pace, in your own home," she adds. The course was developed jointly with the home economics branch with assistance from Alberta Economic Development and Trade.

The $25 course comes packaged in a three-ring binder. It's available by writing and making cheques payable to the Rural Education Development Association (REDA), 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9. Application forms are also available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the home study program in Edmonton at 427-2404.

-30-

Contact: Faye Douglas Phillips
427-2404

February 19, 1990
For immediate release

Raise and release pheasants with 4-H

Alberta 4-H members who want to broaden their experience with wildlife have a March 15 deadline to get involved with the pheasant raise and release program.

For the past 13 years the co-operative program between Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch and the Fish and Wildlife division (Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife) has given 4-H members an opportunity to understand and appreciate the needs of wildlife.

To get involved, a 4-H member has to complete a pheasant raise and release agreement application and have their leader or parent sign the form. Agreements are available at Fish and Wildlife district offices. The application deadline is March 15.

"The program is on a first-come, first-served basis, so getting applications in early is important," says Lori McRae, of the 4-H branch.

The 4-H pheasant raise and release program started in 1977. Last year, 178 4-Hers had pheasant projects and received a total of 5,800 day-old chicks to raise.

"This program's first objective is an educational one for the 4-H member and his or her family, both about wildlife and wildlife habitat," says McRae. "From the wildlife perspective the program is very important. Wildlife biologists have told us without the program there wouldn't be pheasants around."

Members supply their own feed for the project that runs from approximately mid-May to fall, or they can overwinter the birds until mid-April. A good quality turkey starter and grower works as feed. The cost to raise 25 chicks until April is approximately $90, plus grain, says McRae.

First year project members may only order 25 chicks. 4-Hers with more than one year's experience may order 50 birds. The chicks themselves are free and are available for pick-up at the pheasant hatchery in Brooks or at distribution points in northern and central Alberta.

(Cont'd)

Raise and release pheasants with 4-H (cont'd)

Most of the 4-H pheasant projects have been in the northeast and northwest regions. In 1989, about 40 per cent, or over 2,300, of all the chicks were delivered to these regions.

To receive credit for the project, 4-H members must complete a record book. The 4-H program also has a record book contest and the 1989 winners were recently announced. First place from the 28 entries went to Wanda and Neil Hasiuk, of Two Hills. Karen Simpson, of Bentley, was second and Brenda and Teresa Eleniak, of Tofield, were third. Honorable mentions went to: Jennifer and Rachelle Brower, of Wainwright; Edward Gifford, of Cherhill; Lynette Pavka, of Cranford; and, Jeannette Mandrusiak, of Two Hills.

Alberta 4-H has three other wildlife projects: living with wildlife, working with wildlife and nest boxes for Alberta birds.

For more information about the pheasant program, contact a regional 4-H specialist.

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Contact: Lori McRae
427-2541

February 19, 1990
For immediate release

4-H judging workshop pilot held in Peace region

Ten senior 4-H members in the Peace region sharpened their judging skills at a new type of workshop this month.

The pilot workshop, "Let's all judge", was held in Fairview in early February. Its purpose was to share new ideas in judging with the senior members, says Arlene Ross, an Alberta Agriculture 4-H agriculture specialist.

"Unlike judging clinics that teach livestock conformation, this workshop emphasized the mechanics of judging," says Ross. Judging procedures, structure of reasons, developing quality reasons and marking reasons were highlighted in the workshop conducted by Ross and regional 4-H specialist Janet Kerr. Members also had a chance to practice their new and improved skills.

"An important part of the workshop was teaching the seniors how they could share their skills with their club," says Ross. Each of the members had time to prepare their own visual aids, such as flip charts, for a personal touch in their own presentations.

Senior 4-H members who participated at the workshop were: Wendi Anderson and Brian van Tol, Fairview; Kenda and Krista Lubeck, Worsley; Shelly Pellerin, DeBolt; Gail Roessler, Tony Mitchell and Jo-Ella Sorken, Sexsmith; Deren Tomshak, Clairmont; and, Lisa Veidt, Grimshaw.

"We're looking forward to seeing and hearing about these members' workshops in their clubs and districts," says Ross.

Other regions will also be trying the workshop, the first will likely be in the Red Deer region.

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Contact: Arlene Ross
427-2541

Janet Kerr
340-5112

February 19, 1990
For immediate release

Weed and soil management conservation strategies seminar

A two-day seminar in Calgary next month will focus on weed and soil management strategies as part of conservation farming practices.

The seminar March 6 and 7 is part of the Municipal District of Rocky View's conservation plan developed through funding from the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) says Brenda Ralston, Calgary district agriculturist.

Farmers in the Rocky View municipality are the principal targets of the seminar, she says. "The seminar is designed to build on their already good conservation practices and increase awareness within the municipality." Farmers from outside the municipality are also welcome.

Senator Herb Sparrow, a national leader in the movement toward better soil management, will open the seminar with a keynote address.

An Agriculture Canada researcher, local farmer and agricultural service board representative will discuss soil conservation from a provincial, municipal and farm perspective.

During the first afternoon, six select-a-sessions will be offered. Topics include salinity, conservation tillage and equipment, your soil's potential, field shelterbelts, alternatives in range and forage management and crop rotations and residue management.

On the agenda during the seminar's second day are: integrated weed management in conservation farming systems; reduced tillage and quackgrass, green foxtail and thistle control; herbicide resistance; old weeds, new controls; and, toadflax control in conservation farming systems. The seminar will also provide the only opportunity for Rocky View producers to take advantage of an authorized applicator's course for Tordon 22K during the 1990 crop year, says Ralston.

For more information about the seminar, contact the Rocky View Agricultural Service Board at 230-1401, the Alberta Agriculture Airdrie district office at 948-8551 or the Calgary district office at 297-6281.

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Contact: Brenda Ralston
297-6281

February 19, 1990
For immediate release

Practical strategies for sustainable agriculture at MATFP'90

A sustainable agriculture system has to follow five "R-concepts" to success says a featured speaker at the Managing Agriculture Technology for Profit (MATFP) March 4 through 7 at the Kananaskis Lodge.

The R-concepts are: resistance, resilience, regeneration, re-structuring and replenishment says Michael Sands. Sands is the co-ordinator of co-operative research at the Rodale Institute in Pennsylvania. His major work involves research and transfer of information about regenerative agriculture to farmers and development workers.

"An over-emphasis on production can lead to environmental consequences possibly causing a future decrease in the productivity of our natural resources," he says.

Conference delegates will also get an Alberta perspective on this topic from Jim Robertson, chairman of the department of soil sciences in the University of Alberta's agriculture and forestry faculty. "No one can disagree with the notion of sustainable agriculture, but how to accomplish it is another matter," says Robertson.

The annual MATFP conference is organized by the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with several members of the agribusiness community. The conference is designed to provide an opportunity to farm couples to learn more about trends, issues and challenges facing agriculture in the 1990s.

Registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis and the conference is limited to 450 participants. Registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices. For more information about the MATFP'90, contact Paul Gervais or Trish Stiles in Olds at 556-4240 or write to: MATFP'90, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0 (FAX 403-556-7545).

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Stiles
556-4240

February 19, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

1990 GRASSHOPPER FORECAST

While the overall severity and geographic distribution of grasshopper infestations in the province have declined, persistent problems in small infestations remain in the southwest and east central pockets. Both the severity and distribution of grasshoppers have been steady for three years. The 1990 forecast is for scattered low to moderate infestations in most areas. Exceptional, but localized infestations, are expected near Cardston and in Special Area 4 south of Provost. Crop damage in these areas has been reduced by insecticide spraying, but these infections have continued to exhibit high densities and active migration normally seen during outbreaks. Small infestations in Barrhead and Lac Ste. Anne counties have already been downgraded because above average rains reduced the potential of this flare up to expand. The 1990 forecast is based on survey data reported by agricultural service board fieldman from 53 municipalities. For more information contact the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Lethbridge at 327-4561.

WHEAT GROWERS HOLD REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is holding a series of regional meetings this month and in March to discuss a number of important issues. Among the topics for discussion are the method of payment, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the farm, crop insurance changes and the federal pesticide review. The farming community is invited to attend meetings in: Wainwright, Communiplex Hall 2, February 20; Camrose, Norseman Inn, February 21; St. Paul Cultural Centre, February 22; Provost Legion Hall, February 23; Strathmore, Wheatland County Inn, February 26; Lethbridge, El Rancho Hotel, February 27; Foremost Community Hall, February 28; and, Dawson Creek, George Dawson Inn, March 12. All meetings begin at 10 a.m. and continue through

(Cont'd)

WHEAT GROWERS HOLD REGIONAL MEETINGS (cont'd)

3 p.m. A free lunch will be served at 12 noon. Both members and non-members of the association are welcome. For more information contact the association's Alberta office in Red Deer at 342-1817.

WEATHER AND MARKET OUTLOOK IN LETHBRIDGE

Two experts are bringing their 1990 weather and market outlooks to Lethbridge on March 3. Art Douglas, an atmospheric sciences professor from Nebraska, will begin the afternoon with a weather outlook. His speciality is long range weather forecasts. He's provided his forecasts for the National Cattlemen's Association in the United States since 1977. Don Bousquet, host of the Farm Market News radio show carried across western Canada, will provide a 1990 grains and oilseeds market outlook. Bousquet's company also produces the commodity pages of the Financial Post. He lives and works from Stony Mountain, Manitoba. The outlook meeting will be held at the Coulee Theatre, CE 1365, Lethbridge Community College beginning at 1 p.m. March 3. The meeting is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, Lethbridge Community College, the Dryland Salinity Control Association, the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, the Alberta Corn Committee, CARTT, southern Alberta agriculture service boards and the Alberta Safflower Growers Association. For more information contact, Blair Roth at 381-5124 or Don Wentz at 381-5862 in Lethbridge.

LAKELAND COLLEGE GAINS ACCREDITATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Lakeland College's animal health technology program has been granted an unconditional three-year accreditation by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) following approval of program content and clinical facilities at the Vermilion college campus. Alberta Veterinary Medical Association policy requires that all practicing animal health technicians in the province hold CVMA accreditation. The two-year program isn't intended as pre-veterinary

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LAKELAND COLLEGE GAINS ACCREDITATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM (cont'd)

training. It prepares graduates to provide skilled assistance in clinical settings. Training focuses on surgical procedures, administering medicine, keeping clinical records and monitoring nursing cases and deals with both large and small animals. By special arrangement with the Lloydminster SPCA about 30 to 40 small animals are sent to the clinic each year for surgical procedures. Students also complete a four week field placement and the program also involves three veterinarians from a local practice. Career opportunities for graduates are particularly good in small town mixed practices says Terri Rowat, head of the college's veterinary services. For more information, contact Rowat at 853-8586.

SULPHUR FERTILIZER LISTING RELEASED

An American institute has released an updated edition of a continental sulphur fertilizer producers list. The booklet, "North American Sulphur Fertilizer Producers", lists producers by fertilizer produced as well as alphabetically with necessary contact information for over 60 companies. Fertilizer dealers, distributors and others interested in sulphur fertilizer will find the listing extremely useful. For a free copy of the booklet write: The Sulphur Institute, "S Fertilizer List", 1725 K Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20006 or call Don Messick at (202)331-9660.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

MAR 13 1990

February 26, 1990

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

February 26, 1990
For immediate release

$14.9 million disaster assistance for northwestern Alberta

Farmers in Alberta's northwest who watched rain ruin much of last year's crop are getting disaster assistance from the Alberta government.

Premier Don Getty announced in Sexsmith February 15 the provincial cabinet approved a special disaster assistance warrant for $14.9 million.

In August, 1989 the Grande Prairie area had three times, and the Peace River area had more than twice the average rainfall for that month. Conditions like this occur only about once every 150 years. Heavy rainfall continued in September and October. This made the fall harvest difficult and in many cases impossible. Farmers in the area suffered severe crop loss, loss of large acreages of hay and extensive damage to fields where harvesting was attempted.

The disaster assistance plan has four parts covering uninsurable crops and forage seed, repair and unusual field clean-up, emergency erosion control and disaster loans. This assistance is provided through the terms of the Public Safety Services Act.

Uncut tame and native hay and both types cut and lost or baled and lost will be covered at per acre and per ton rates. Uninsurable forage seed losses will be covered at $100 per acre for 100 per cent loss, pro-rated for lesser losses. This assistance will be provided in accordance with the regular disaster assistance guidelines. The government pays 80 per cent of the eligible losses after a $1,000 deductible is applied.

Insurable crops, including pedigreed fescue and alfalfa and alfalfa grown for processing, aren't eligible for assistance. Nor are livestock and farm machinery losses.

Up to a maximum of $30 per acre will be provided to repair fields damaged by rutting during attempts to harvest. Payments will be based on recommendations by an appraiser and on the condition the farmer recrops the land, plants a cover crop or takes other approved measures to control erosion.

(Cont'd)

For unusual clean-up situations, assistance may be available up to a maximum of $7.50 per acre based on appraisal. A condition of payment is that the farmer carry full crop insurance for two years.

In some cases heavy equipment may have to be used for emergency erosion control before spring runoff. Contracted work may be undertaken on the advice of soil specialists. Assistance will be paid on the basis of receipts up to $30 per acre.

Field repair, clean-up and emergency erosion control will be assisted at 100 per cent with no deductible.

Interest free disaster loans may be made available to farmers who have suffered devastating losses whether or not their crops were insured. Loans will be made available through the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation. Interest for two years will be paid through the Disaster Assistance Program. Principal deferral is another option. A condition of these loans and principal deferrals is that the farmer subscribes to full crop insurance for the two year loan period.

Disaster assistance registration began on February 21 in Grande Prairie and High Prairie and February 23 in Spirit River and Valleyview. A second day of registration runs in both Spirit River and Valleyview on February 27. Other disaster registration is at the Fairview Provincial Building and the Municipal District 130 office in Falher, February 28 and March 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. One application will cover all areas of the program.

If unable to register during the set days and hours, farmers should contact their Alberta Public Safety Services office in Grande Prairie at 538-5295 or call the disaster assistance branch in Edmonton at 422-9000.

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Contact: Hugh Dunne
Office of Premier
427-2251

Grahame Blundell
Alberta Public Safety
Services
451-7111

February 26, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta Beef team scoring in U.S. markets

Mark your scorecard with two more sales wins for the special Alberta Beef team that's taking its message about Alberta's lean product to selected American markets.

Representatives from five Alberta beef processors, the Alberta Cattle Commission, Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture make up the "U.S. Alberta Beef Team". The team co-operatively conducts promotional, technical and educational seminars for American grocery retailers, wholesalers, distributors and brokers. Last month the team was in Phoenix and already their trip has paid dividends for Alberta packers.

"A test shipment and some full trailer loads have been shipped as a result of contacts made during the beef seminars," says Dave Rous, the mission leader and an Alberta Agriculture trade director.

"Our objective going into these market specific seminars is to increase awareness and ultimately the long term sales of Alberta Beef. In particular, the team wants to establish supplemental or niche markets with specific cuts of Alberta Beef," says Rous. "Through the seminars, the team familiarizes potential American clients with all aspects of Alberta Beef.

"We've found these seminars are very effective in marketing beef in the United States. Packing and processing companies have made solid contacts from talking with clients and showing them samples," he says.

Retailers, wholesalers, distributors and brokers are invited to individual seminars for their company or chain. Each seminar begins with a chance to look at meat displays and have informal discussions. Potential clients also have plenty of time to ask questions in a question and answer session and have more private discussions with any of the represented packers.

(Cont'd)

A look at the overall beef industry from genetics to the retail food service market is presented in a short film, "Alberta Beef, Canada's Finest". An Agriculture Canada meat scientist details the Canadian versus the American grading systems through a slide presentation.

"The highlight of the seminar is tasting Alberta Beef. The meat is shipped to the seminar location, usually a hotel, and prepared to our specifications. In Phoenix, seminar participants sampled prime rib and the team got very positive feedback," he says.

Seminars target American interest in Alberta's leaner beef product. Particular American cities are chosen for the seminars based on several factors including their market size and accessibility. The first of the beef team seminars were run in 1987 and 1988 in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland. The team has investigated other American west coast markets and also had a successful seminar in Minneapolis in 1989.

The American market is an important export market for Alberta beef. Beef exports from the province to American destinations have increased from $10 million in 1980, to $60 million in 1987. "That's a 500 per cent increase, but we see there's potential to increase our Alberta Beef exports even further. We're hoping to reach a $100 million total by 1992," he says.

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Contact: Dave Rous
427-4241

February 26, 1990
For immediate release

Barley deliveries will affect spring prices

Barley prices in the next six months will be determined by farmer deliveries and the weather says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Those deliveries will decide the tightness of supplies at the end of the crop year and the 1990 Prairie production outlook," says Charlie Pearson in his quarterly Feedgrain Situation and Outlook report.

Domestic barley usage is expected to remain steady around last year's 8.3 million tonnes. "The big question is the level of Canadian Wheat Board exports. During the first five months of the crop year, exports were up 1.5 million tonnes from 1988-89. Exports are expected to slow down during the last part of the crop year. But that's expected because of lack of farmer deliveries rather than from lack of export opportunities."

Pearson says producers should carefully monitor estimated year end stocks over the next few weeks using export volumes and Statistics Canada stocks report estimates. "If it appears the Canadian barley carryout will fall below two million tonnes, local barley prices this spring can be expected to be very sensitive to weather. If the carryout is above that figure, local prices will be kept under pressure, especially if 1990 acreage increases and weather conditions are favorable."

He says a realistic final payment is about $15 per tonne from the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) for a total Alberta based barley payment of about $95 per tonne. Southern Alberta feed barley prices will remain in the $115 to $125 per tonne range.

Unless feedgrain prices increase generally, Alberta oat prices will stay down at current low levels. Alberta feed oat prices should hold in the $65 to $80 per tonne range, he says. He says although it's unlikely prices will return to the extremely high levels of 1988-89, the oat price outlook for 1990-91 is still favorable.

(Cont'd)

"For crop budgeting purposes, assuming favorable weather conditions in global oat producing regions, I would use an average 1990-91 local oat price of $100 per tonne for premium quality and $80 per tonne for feed quality oats." He adds delivery opportunities for premium quality oats will be good in 1990-91.

Given a large amount of Prairie rye, the outlook is for Alberta rye prices to remain in the current trading range of $70 to $80 per tonne for the next six months. Rye will continue to be priced based on its feedgrain rather than foodgrain value, he adds.

Pearson says the world feedgrain situation is more optimistic than either wheat or oilseeds going into the 1990 crop year. A large global coarse grain crop is required, particularly in the United States, to meet consumption requirements in the coming year.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

February 26, 1990
For immediate release

Low wheat prices despite tight supply

International wheat prices remain lower than last year's, despite a tighter wheat supply-demand balance and Alberta producers can expect Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) prices to be below those for the 1988-89 crop year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst .

Prairie wheat producers can expect a further $10 to $20 per tonne final payment on all classes and grades of wheat delivered to the CWB says Charlie Pearson. This makes a total 1989-90 Alberta based payment for number one Canada Western red spring (1CWRS) at about $160 per tonne, down $20 from 1988-89 levels. Pearson estimates total Alberta based payments for number three Canada Western red spring wheat at $140 per tonne, down about $25 from last year.

Canadian wheat exports to December 31, 1989 were down 700,000 tonnes from the year before. Several factors have contributed to a slow beginning to the export program, he says. "Good weather before August pointed to an extremely high quality crop. Rains during harvest resulted in more number three and feed wheat and the CWB had a major change in the quality of wheat they had available. A slower than normal early season buying program by both China and Soviet Union, has also kept export numbers down."

Pearson says the Chinese and Soviets have re-entered the world wheat market and he expects the CWB will do traditional business with both countries. Canadian wheat exports are forecast to be up 40 per cent over last year's 12.4 million tonnes.

World wheat production forecasts for 1990 will determine the direction of prices during the next few months, he says. Record levels have been predicted, but weather in producing regions will remain the prime concern. "A disaster in a major wheat producing region would decrease world carryovers to the point where prices would have to increase substantially to ration supplies," he says.

(Cont'd)

Looking ahead, Pearson says producers can realistically expect 1990-91 wheat crop prices to not differ substantially from this year's prices. He adds the CWB will have no trouble selling a larger 1990-91 crop. World demand for wheat is continuing to grow.

International durum wheat prices remain at well below the year ago level, he says. The average CWB number one amber durum asking price (instore St. Lawrence) during the first six months of the crop year was $226 per tonne, down $50 from the 1988-89 average. The Alberta based initial payment is about $132 per tonne. "Assuming no major drought induced rally for wheat in general during the next six months, Alberta durum growers can anticipate a further $15 to $25 per tonne final payment," he says.

North American durum acreage will be lower in the coming year, he says, reflecting prices that have dropped below those for hard red spring wheats. "Assuming favorable weather, world durum supplies will remain adequate, and therefore, it would be difficult to forecast an international durum price premium over other classes of wheat. In budgeting for 1990-91, I would use about $160 per tonne as a total 1990-91 CWB payment for number one amber durum."

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
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February 26, 1990
For immediate release

Canadian canola supplies tight, prices down

A large world oilseed supply is keeping prices down even though the 1989-90 Canadian supply-demand balance is tight says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Canola marketers should watch several reports over the next weeks for indications of what prices will do," says Charlie Pearson in his quarterly Oilseed Situation and Outlook report. Statistics Canada December 31 and March 31 grain stocks reports, farmer canola deliveries, weekly exports and domestic crush all have to be monitored, he says.

"If they indicate a July 31 carryover above 700,000 tonnes, Canadian canola prices can be expected to lose their premium relative to international oilseeds and basis can be expected to widen. If the carryover drops below 400,000 tonnes, prices will improve," he says.

The current Canadian canola situation is almost exactly opposite to last year's, he says. Canadian canola supplies are down substantially from a year ago and world supplies are higher. The result has been premium Canadian canola prices relative to international prices.

Pearson says canola producers marketing their crop should be flexible enough to take advantage of potential spring rallies. "Prudent use of 90-day unpriced contracts which include a locked-in basis, or selling physical seed combined with the use of business speculation will provide better mechanisms for taking advantage of spring rallies than holding canola in the bin."

Elevator/crush bids should remain in the $260 to $275 per tonne range during the next quarter, he says. Basis levels will remain narrow in the $35 per tonne range, he adds.

Prospects for 1990-91 are becoming apparent, he adds. Given current price spread between grain and oilseeds, it's likely both U.S. soybean and Canadian canola acres will decrease in the coming crop year.

(Cont'd)

Markets established for Canadian canola require at least four million tonnes of production. Growing a smaller crop this year will mean extremely tight supplies by the end of the 1990-91 crop year, he says. This will also mean another supply short fall for domestic crushers, he adds.

Pearson suggests producers take advantage of opportunities to lock-in $300 per tonne canola and price the first 25 per cent of their estimated production. The price of the next 25 per cent of production should be locked-in at about $325 per tonne.

Canadian flaxseed supplies will also remain tight during the remainder of the winter, despite a major production increase. A predicted carryover of around 153,000 tonnes can be considered very tight and as a result prices will be very sensitive to next summer's weather conditions across the Prairies.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
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February 26, 1990
For immediate release

Register, enroll now for cow-calf tripartite stabilization plan

Alberta cow-calf producers considering enrollment in the national tripartite stabilization plan must decide now to ensure their enrollment form, registration and premiums are received by the administrative office no later than April 15, 1990.

"Each April 1 is the date to count cows and bred heifers for registration in the national plan. It's also an opportunity for producers not involved in the program to join," says Herb Lock, Alberta Agriculture administrator for the national red meat tripartite stabilization programs.

Approximately 580,000 cows and bred heifers representing between 35 and 40 per cent of the Alberta cow herd were registered in the program in 1989.

"This year many non-enrolled producers along with participating producers will be reassessing the plan," he says. "Currently enrolled producers must assess their continued participation. Non-enrolled producers must contemplate their financial ability to outlast the affects of any downturn in fall calf values resulting from the cow-calf cycle."

To date, fall calf values haven't triggered a cow-calf program payment. Every fall since 1986 calf prices have been higher than the trigger price, 85 per cent of the ten-year average price adjusted for inflation.

The 1989 national selling price of 400 to 600 pound steers and 400 to 500 pound heifer calves was $104.93, or 90.3 per cent of the 10-year average adjusted for inflation. If the 1989 fall calf price had been five per cent lower, enrolled producers would have received a payout.

"The question for producers not enrolled in the plan is: Does this downturn in price represent a one-year phenomenon or are we truly about to experience the down side of the traditional cow-calf cycle?

(Cont'd)

"Some Alberta producers may be wondering if the cow-calf plan will ever provide payouts and if it's worth their investment. I believe it's important that both participating producers and those not enrolled in the program look at the program from the point of view of risk management," Lock says.

Enrolling in the program is a risk management tool he says, not unlike insurance for other farm assets such as a tractor or barn. "Producers have to think of their program premiums like insurance premiums, and a payment to them is bad news, like hail on a crop or a barn burning down. Certainly I think producers are reluctant to have fall calf values drop so much that they'd get a payout from the fund.

"Producers intending to join the plan sometime down the road, perhaps when the plan appears more likely to provide immediate payouts, must realize a three year phase in is required before they receive full benefits," he says.

Producers having no financial interest in more than six cows/bred heifers on April 1 of the year prior to application may be entitled to full benefits, he adds.

Producer participation in the stabilization programs is entirely voluntary. Farmers, the provincial government and the federal government share program premiums equally. Payments are triggered when average prices fall below set support prices.

The national tripartite stabilization plans are designed to moderate farm income losses due to sudden input cost increases or abrupt changes in market prices common in agricultural commodity markets.

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Contact: Herb Lock
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February 26, 1990
For immediate release

Purple fuel turning red

Alberta farmers will soon notice a difference in the color of their marked fuel, but it isn't a cause for concern.

"They'll be seeing red instead of purple," says John Chang, an energy engineer with Alberta Agriculture. Fuel used for farming operations is marked with a dye and farmers are eligible for an Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance (AFFDA) rebate at the time of its purchase.

In the next weeks oil refineries will begin using a red dye instead of the blue dye, that for years has given marked fuel in Alberta its characteristic purple color.

"Introduction of this red dye will be noticed at different times in different parts of the province because of the varying time it will take to use up existing supplies of dye and purple fuel," says Chang.

During the changeover period, farmers may find their marked fuel has an even darker purple color. This is from mixing new red dyed fuel with remaining stocks of purple fuel. Once existing stocks of purple fuel are completely used, marked fuel will be a pinkish-red color, he says.

"As before with the purple fuel, this new red dye doesn't affect the performance of marked fuel in any way. Nor will mixing purple fuel with new red dyed fuel affect its quality," he adds.

Farmers with questions about the new dye should contact their bulk fuel dealer or can call Alberta Treasury, who administers the AFFDA program, at 427-3044 in the Edmonton area or toll-free from anywhere in Alberta at 1-800-262-9069.

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Contact: John Chang
427-2181

February 26, 1990
For immediate release

Check cattle for lice

Early diagnosis and treatment can control lice and prevent serious losses from anaemia and death in your cattle herd says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Animals suffering from anaemia caused by lice infestations can lose up to a third of their red blood cells. If cows aren't deloused, they may abort their calves as a result of the louse-induced anaemia. Heavily infested animals are susceptible to respiratory diseases. A high louse population on cattle can stunt their growth, reduce their milk production and cause general unthriftiness," says Ali Khan, a livestock entomologist with the animal industry division.

Rough, patchy, dirty coats and poor physical condition are indications of heavy lice infestations, he says. "If you examine the area around the eyes and in the folds of the skin on the neck, you will see the slate blue adult lice that are about an eighth of an inch long. You'll find that the heads of many of them are partly buried in the animal's skin."

Cream-colored eggs, or nits, attach to the animal's hair and look like a string of beads. In very severe infestations, the animal's hair will be coated with blood from lice that have gorged themselves and then been crushed when their host scratched against something to relieve the irritation caused by the biting and sucking.

Khan says producers should check their herds for chronic or "carrier" cows. These are generally older animals that are infested every year and usually are the source of reinfestation for the entire herd.

A number of insecticides are available to control lice in beef and dairy cattle herds, he says. Recommended for beef cattle are carbaryl (Sevin), coumaphos (Co-Ral), crotxyphos (Ciodrin), fenthion (Spot-on), korlan (Ronnel), trichlorfon (Neguvon), ivermectin (Ivomec), malathion and rotenone. Only four of those are recommended for lactating dairy cattle. They are Sevin, Ciodrin, Malathion and Rotenone.

(Cont'd)

Check cattle for lice (cont'd)

"Systemic insecticides should never be used to control lice on lactating dairy cows because these products will contaminate the milk," he warns. "Nor should they be used on beef cattle that weren't treated for warbles in the fall because of the possible danger of host-parasite reaction," he adds.

Such a reaction could take place if cattle were treated and warble grubs were killed in the the esophagus or the spinal column during December, January and February. This could result in bloat or paralysis of the hind legs.

More information is available by contacting Khan in Edmonton at 427-5083 or any from Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist.

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Contact: Ali Khan
427-5083

February 26, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

PULSE COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING IN BANFF

The Alberta Pulse Growers Commission is holding its annual meeting in Banff March 21 through 23. Some of the topics on the meeting agenda include: the pay the producer proposal; the future of pulse crops in Western Canada; critical factors in pea production for central Alberta; new pulse varieties; an updated look at value of peas in feeds; a 1990 bean industry outlook; results and summary of a feed pea user survey; and, a harvesting pulse crops panel. A number of reports including commission committees, the European feed pea mission and market council reports will be given. A trade fair will be available for viewing during the entire conference. For more information contact the commission in Lethbridge at 327-0626.

CWB DISTRICT MEETINGS IN ALBERTA

The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is holding district meetings across the Prairies from February 19 through March 22. Wheat Board senior staff and possibly a commissioner will be available to discuss topics of interest to Prairie grain farmers. Time is also allotted for questions and answers. Meetings are scheduled as follows: Fort Saskatchewan Legion Hall, February 26, 1 p.m.; Red Deer, Black Knight Inn, February 27, 10 a.m.; Drumheller Elks Club, March 1, 1 p.m.; Lethbridge, Colonel McLeod Room, March 2, 1 p.m.; Lloydminster, Wildrose Pavilion, March 6, 10 a.m.; Provost Legion Hall, March 7, 10 a.m.; Albright Community Hall, March 12, 10 a.m.; Nampa, Nampa and district Recreation Centre, March 13, 10 a.m.; Athabasca, Athabasca Inn, March 15, 10 a.m.; and, Barrhead, Neighbourhood Inn, March 16, 10 a.m.

CATALOGUE ASSISTS DISABLED FARMERS

Newly disabled farmers can use a special catalogue of machinery modifications, special tools and farming aids other disabled farmers have designed to suit their needs. The catalogue is a project of the

(Cont'd)

CATALOGUE ASSISTS DISABLED FARMERS (cont'd)

Handicapped Farmers Advisory Committee of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. This catalogue includes the farmer's particular disability and a clear description (usually with picture) of the construction of the device and operation of the modification. More detailed information on many modifications is available from the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. This includes dimensions, specifications and components commercially purchased. The names and addresses of farmers who use these modifications are included so they can talk to interested people about their modification. The catalogue also includes a section of commercial items which may make life easier for the farmer with a disability. Copies of the catalogue are available from the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, 1410 Kilburn Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7M 0J8 or call (306)653-1694. The catalogue is also available for public viewing in Yorkton, Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Alberta and Swift Current. The Alberta Agriculture Farm Safety program also has a copy of the catalogue and may be contacted at 427-2186 for more information.

FUTURIST SPEAKS ON AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Canadian futurist Frank Ogden will be in Alberta for three dinner meetings March 21 through 23. "Dr. Tomorrow" will be speaking on the globalization of the agricultural industry in the next decade as part of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists 1989-90 Dr. Leonard S. Klinck Lecture. Ogden will be in Edmonton on March 21, Lethbridge March 22 and wind up in Calgary on March 23. The lecture tour is sponsored by the Agricultural Institute of Canada, Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Institute of Agrologists, the Canadian Society of Extension and the University of Alberta Agriculture Club. For ticket information contact Lorrie in Edmonton at 421-3676, Brian in Lethbridge at 327-4561 and Isabel in Calgary at 244-4487.

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
MAR 27 1990

March 5, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

March 5, 1990
For immediate release

Eating healthy starts when you shop

Healthy eating starts in your grocery cart is the message to Alberta consumers during nutrition month.

"With about 24,000 items to chose from in an average grocery store, eating a healthy diet starts when you make decisions about the groceries you're buying," says Linda St. Onge, food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Some district home economists will be doing escorted tours through grocery stores and supermarkets to promote nutritious eating during March she says. The Alberta Registered Dietitians Association will also be co-ordinating tours. Tours will show consumers how to shop wisely by reading labels, how to make low fat and high fiber choices in each food group, how to choose nutritious convenience foods and how to get "good bargains". Anyone interested in the tours should contact their Alberta Agriculture district office.

The awareness month reminds consumers that nutrition is an important part of the health equation, says Aileen Whitmore, provincial food and nutrition specialist. "People sometimes mistakenly think one food group is more important than another in their health. For example, for many people fat has become a nasty word, but it's a vital nutrient."

Like carbohydrates and protein, dietary fat is an important source of energy for the body. Fat is the most concentrated source of energy in the diet, providing nine calories per gram compared with four calories per gram from either carbohydrates or protein.

Dietary fat supplies essential fatty acids, such as linoleic acid, which is especially important to children for proper growth, she says. Fat is also required for maintenance of healthy skin, regulation of cholesterol and production of hormone-like substances that regulate some body processes. The fat in your diet is also needed to carry the fat soluble vitamins A,D,E and K and aids in their absorption from the intestine. Fat also helps the body use carbohydrate and protein more efficiently.

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Eating healthy starts when you shop (cont'd)

"The problem isn't having fat in your diet, but having too much fat, because excess is recognized as one risk factor influencing the development of chronic diseases, particularly coronary heart disease," says Whitmore.

Often concerns about fat have focused on excess animal fat and its potential contribution in raising blood cholesterol. In the past, concern about animal fat pointed at red meats, but Whitmore says the fat and cholesterol content of Canadian beef and pork have been reduced. Improved production practices and grading systems have rewarded leanness rather than fat. Consumers have also cut down their average portion size, she adds.

"The solution to any concerns you may have about a healthy diet is usually a balanced diet following Canada's Food Guide and eating from all the food groups," Whitmore says.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

Linda St.Onge
427-2412

March 5, 1990
For immediate release

Quilter wins provincial honors with sampler

Janet Jones's second effort at quilting was an award winning one. The Grande Prairie woman won the third annual Canada Packers Alberta Quilt Competition.

Jones's "Green Sampler" quilt was chosen as the best among 23 finalists that qualified for the competition by winning at agricultural society fairs across the province. Jones first won at the COCO Plowing Match and Agricultural Society in Wanham.

Her quilt was purchased by Canada Packers for $900 and becomes part of a travelling Alberta collection of first prize winners. The corporation also gives $100 to the agricultural society where the exhibitor of the provincial champion quilt won the privilege to compete.

"Boxed Star" by Audrey Wiedrick from Pickardville was the second place quilt and received $300 from the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS). Alice Luiken, of Manning, won third place honors with her "Garden Maze" quilt. Luiken won $200 from the host of the final competition, the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede.

Quilts were judged on appearance, design and workmanship. The competition is sponsored by the AAAS along with co-sponsors Alberta Agriculture and Canada Packers.

The winners were announced in Calgary at an AAAS banquet. The awards banquet was a finale to two days of competition finals activity that included quilting and judging workshops.

"The quilting demonstration workshop attracted almost its capacity of 60 participants. The host Bow River Quilters' Guild did a super job of presenting a number of quilting skills," says Eve-Lyn Cockle, of the AAAS.

Attendance was good, but not capacity at the judging workshop, she says. "Participants received a lot of individual attention. The workshop isn't just for potential judges, but for quilters to learn more about what judges are looking for and at."

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Quilter wins provincial honors with sampler (cont'd)

Workshoppers also bused over to where the competition quilts were on display at a Calgary mall and had an opportunity to judge a quilt. The judging workshop was conducted by Judy Villett with assistance from Mary Lou Scott and Agnes Boal, first vice-president of the Canadian Quilters' Association. Bev MacMillan, president of the association, was also in attendance.

Quilters can start preparing for next year's competition. For more competition information, they can contact their local agricultural society, Alberta Agriculture district offices or the AAAS office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or call 427-2174.

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Contact: Eve-Lyn Cockle
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March 5, 1990
For immediate release

More 4-H scholarships in 1990

Two new scholarships have been added to Alberta's 4-H scholarship program for 1990, boosting the total number of awards to more than 70.

One of the new scholarships is a memorial scholarship worth approximately $400 annually and will be awarded each year to a student from the northwest 4-H region. The Dixon Shield Memorial Scholarship is named for the 1968 Premier's Award winner. Shield was also regional 4-H specialist in Vermilion between 1971 and 1973. He passed away last spring at the age of 39.

The award is based on financial need, academic achievement and community service. Preference will be given to applicants from the County of Barrhead studying agriculture or a related field. The scholarship is administered by the 4-H Foundation of Alberta.

The second new scholarship is the Wetaskiwin District 4-H Scholarship. It was established with funds raised by the Wetaskiwin and District 4-H Council. Three scholarships will be awarded annually to Alberta residents attending any post-secondary institution. Preference will be given to first-year students who are former Wetaskiwin 4-H district club members and who were active for a minimum of three years. Value of the scholarship awards will vary, as determined by the interest from the principal amount.

Changes have also been made to four of the existing 4-H scholarships says Anita Anderson, 4-H personal development specialist. The Alberta Dairymen's Association and Alberta Agriculture Scholarship has been increased by $1,000. Now four $500 awards for students attending community colleges and two $1,000 scholarships for university students will be available. Applicants also now must write a 200 word essay to be eligible for these awards.

The Alberta Wheat Pool has increased their total award value by $800 annually, making each of their scholarships worth $500.

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More 4-H scholarships in 1990 (cont'd)

The Bale Bandits Scholarship will now be awarded to applicants from central Alberta.

The application deadline for the Canadian National Exhibition Scholarship has been moved up to May 15. The only other exception to the July 15 deadline is the June 1 deadline for the Petro-Canada 4-H Youth Leadership Award.

Applications for 4-H scholarships are available from all Alberta rural high schools and post-secondary institutions, regional 4-H offices, district home economists and Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in Edmonton.

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Contact: Anita Anderson
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March 5, 1990
For immediate release

Dairy seminar talks trade

Participants at the annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar will have a chance to discuss international trade and their industry later this month in Kananaskis Country.

Alberta MP Ken Hughes will be joined by Paul Elliott, head of the United Kingdom's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food milk division, and Ann Veneman, U.S. Undersecretary of State for international affairs and commodity programs. Up for discussion will be respective dairy policies in the 1990s. Their presentations will be followed by a question and answer session.

The seminar, March 27 through 30, focuses on four other major topic areas with a number of national and international experts as the featured speakers, says Brian Rhiness, of Alberta Agriculture's dairy branch.

Lawrence Jones, of Cornell University, will discuss whether increased production will lead to optimum profit. Gordon Atkins, a Calgary veterinarian who specializes in dairy herd health, will look at the perils of high production. The feed quality session will delve into quality control for commercial feed, maintaining quality in farm mixed feed and feed quality problems.

Key sessions on preparing heifers and cows for lactation will feature speakers from the United States. Back by popular demand is Jack Britt, a North Carolina State professor. His topic is herd health and reproduction. Britt was in Alberta three years ago for a dairy seminar series. Jud Heinrichs, of Pennsylvania State University, will discuss heifers as the future.

Margaret Gill, a ruminant nutritionist with the Overseas Development Natural Resources Institute in England, will discuss effective use of forages and timing of feeding.

For more information, call Rhiness in Wetaskiwin at 352-1223 or to register by phone call Sheila at 492-3029.

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Contact: Brian Rhiness
352-1223

March 5, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture Appointments

NEW 4-H SPECIALIST IN NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Janet Kerr has moved her duties as a 4-H regional specialist from the Peace Country to the west central 4-H region. Kerr, who has been in the Peace region since 1986, moved to Red Deer last month. "I'm very familiar with the various aspects of the 4-H program, so my initial focus will be getting to know the club and council leaders in this new region," she says. As regional specialist, she will assist leaders planning programs to develop the leadership, public speaking and teamwork skills of 4-H members. Kerr is a 1982 graduate of the University of Alberta's BSc in agriculture program. She is originally from the Camrose area where she was raised on a dairy farm. After graduation she worked for four years with the Camrose Regional Exhibition. Kerr can be reached in Red Deer at 340-5112.

RYLEY HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Ross Hutchison has switched roles in his new job as Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Ryley. Hutchison spent the last 14 years farming in Saskatchewan and now will be using his practical experience and education to assist farmers in the Ryley area. As well as farming, he did agricultural land appraisal which familiarized him with a large range of agricultural land. As district agriculturist, Hutchison is responsible for distributing a wide range of information from government programs to the most recent developments in crop and livestock production and management. Hutchison is a 1973 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan where he earned a bachelor of science in agriculture. He was a raised at Naicam, Saskatchewan (northeast of Humboldt). Hutchison can be reached in Ryley at 663-3555.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Information Services Division

March 5, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

AGRICULTURE WEEK IN ALBERTA

Albertans are celebrating agriculture week March 11 through 17. Agriculture Week activities kick-off with the induction of three new members to the Agriculture Hall of Fame. The honorees are William Lobay and the late Ed Shimbashi and Irene Leda Jensen. For more information about Agriculture Week activities in your area, contact your Alberta Agriculture district office.

1989 FARM FATALITY REPORT RELEASED

Thirteen Albertans died last year as a result of farm accidents and as in past years farm machinery was involved in the majority of these fatal accidents. Those statistics were in the 1989 Farm Fatality report released on February 22 by Shirley McClellan, Alberta's Associate Agriculture Minister. For the first time since records have been kept, there were no farm fatalities in the 18 years and under age group. Copies of the 1989 Farm Fatality report and further information may be obtained by calling Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program in Edmonton at 427-2186.

MARCH IS GOOD SEED MONTH

This month Canadian farmers are recognizing quality seed during Good Seed Month. The awareness month is sponsored by the Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA). "Individual farmers and Canadian agriculture as a whole have profited because of what's required to be on a Certified seed tag," says Henry Martynse, president of the CSGA. "And it's only the beginning. In the next decade, more changes in agriculture will be brought about by seed than any other input." A certified seed tag assures a number of quality standards, he adds. It stands for pure, clean seed that's true to its variety with a high standard of germination. The identification numbers on the label represent the integrity of the seed production system. From the grower to the supplier, the seed production system is closely monitored so that each batch of seed can be proven to be exactly what the tag states.

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

ECOLOGICAL FARMING AND GARDENING LECTURE

The theory and practice of ecological farming and gardening will be discussed at a public lecture March 18 in Calgary. Stuart Hill, an associate professor at McGill University's agriculture faculty will be the speaker. Hill is director of Ecological Agriculture Projects at MacDonald College. This is a non-profit independent resource centre committed to furthering food systems and human development based on sustainable and ecological principles. Hill will give his presentation at Room 101, Engineering Building Block A at the University of Calgary at 2 p.m. The presentation is sponsored by the Sustainable Agriculture Association. Tickets are available at the door or by writing to Stuart Hill Tickets, c/o Sustainable Agriculture Association, 1212-18 St. NW, Calgary, T2N 2G7 or call 282-3975 or 282-5721 for more information.

LLOYDMINSTER SEED SHOW APRIL 5

Lloydminster Exhibition Association is holding a seed and trade show April 5. Prizes will be awarded for 11 pedigreed seed classes. They include wheat, barley, oats, canola, flax, field pea, lentil and grass and forage legume. As well as the seed and trade show, a number of seminars will also be available to participants. Brian Rossnagel, from the University of Saskatchewan, will discuss how cereal varieties are recommended for licensing. Ernie Unger, of United Oilseeds, will discuss the same aspect of canola. Market analyst Don Bousequet will provide a market outlook. The impact of the GST on the farm is Douglas Duff's topic. Duff is with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. For more information contact the seed show committee chairman Wayne Tyner at 875-5554.

GRAIN GRADING TRAINING

Olds College and the Canadian Grain Commission are teaming up to offer two grain grading courses this month in Calgary. During the five-day workshop participants will learn how to: identify different

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

GRAIN GRADING TRAINING (cont'd)

grains and specialty crops; identify major contaminants; determine test weights of grain; perform accurate moisture tests; assess dockage on all grains; calculate protein analysis; identify pests and pest damage; identify defects grain acquires due to environmental factors and known effects of end-use quality; recognize and evaluate divisions of quality of grain; and recognize visual quality levels of primary standards and guide samples. The workshops will be offered March 19 through 23 and again March 26 through 30 at the Canadian Grain Commission laboratory in Calgary. Previous grain grading experience isn't required, but students should have a working knowledge of the major grain types grown on the Prairies. The registration deadline is March 12. For more information contact Olds College extension service at 556-8344.

MARKETING VIDEOS AVAILABLE FROM DISTRICT OFFICES

Alberta Agriculture district offices are now able to loan a series of five videos about various aspects of marketing grain. The five-part series was developed by Alberta Agriculture. Part one of the series is a 21-minute video titled "You have the Options" (VT 840-1) that profiles the grain marketing system and several marketing options. "Designing a Farm Marketing Plan" (VT 840-2) is the 15-minute series second installment. The discipline needed to market effectively is outlined in the 14-minute "Selling Discipline" (VT 840-3). "The Futures Market and Hedging" (VT 840-4) is a 16-minute look at the role and function of futures and how to use the futures market to hedge. The final series installment is a how-to approach in loading a rail car. "Loading your own rail car" (VT 840-5) is 15 minutes in length. Every Alberta Agriculture district office has the series. For more information about borrowing the series, you can also contact Alberta Agriculture's Film Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

Coming Agricultural Events

Calgary seed fair and hay Show (42nd annual)
Stampede Park
Calgary.....March 3 - 6
Larry Welsh – 948-8535 – Airdrie;
Don Stewart – 261-0121 – Calgary

Calgary bull sale
Stampede Park
Calgary.....March 4 - 6
Don Stewart – 261-0121 – Calgary

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....March 4 - 7
Trish Stiles – 556-4276 – Olds

Peace Country Classic
Evergreen Park
Grande Prairie.....March 8 - 10
Gerald Rutberg – 532-3279 – Grande Prairie

Alberta Agriculture Week.....March 11 - 17

Farm Safety Association annual conference
Airport Howard Johnson
Rexdale, Ontario.....March 12
Farm Safety Association – (519)823-5600 – Guelph, Ontario

Farming for the Future conference
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge.....March 14 - 15
Sharon Abbott – 427-1956 – Edmonton

Canadian Horticultural Council annual meeting
Westin Hotel
Ottawa, Ontario.....March 18 - 21
Mary Ruth McDonald – (416)775-3758 – Kettleby, Ontario

Canola Council of Canada (23rd annual convention)
Westin Hotel
Ottawa, Ontario.....March 19 - 21
Canola Council of Canada – (204)944-9494 – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Alberta Pulse Growers annual meeting
Banff Park Lodge
Banff.....March 22 - 23
Renald Lamoreaux – 998-5278 – Fort Saskatchewan;
Hugh Craig – 973-6892 – Namao;
Blair Roth – 381-5127 – Lethbridge

Canadian Limousin bull test sale
Stampede Park
Calgary.....March 26
Don Stewart – 261-0162 – Calgary

Farm and Ranch Show
Northlands Agri-Com
Edmonton.....March 27 - 30
Northlands agriculture department – 471-7210 – Edmonton

7th annual Western pedigreed seed show
Northlands Agricom
Edmonton.....March 27 - 30
Northlands agriculture department – 471-7210 – Edmonton

Western Canadian Dairy Seminar
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....March 27 - 30
Jerome Martin – 492-3116 – Edmonton

Provincial 4-H public speaking finals
Kinsmen Centre, Stampede Park
Calgary.....April 7
Anita Anderson – 427-2541 – Edmonton

Aggie Days
Stampede Park
Calgary.....April 19 - 20
Don Stewart – 261-0162 – Calgary

Calgary Stampede Dairy Classic
Agricultural Pavilion, Stampede Park
Calgary.....April 20 - 21
Don Stewart – 261-0313 – Calgary

Highway clean-up by 4-H clubs
Alberta highways.....May 5
Anita Anderson – 427-2541 – Edmonton

Swine Feeder's Day
Swine research unit, University of Alberta
Edmonton.....May 31
Frank Aherne – 492-2118 – Edmonton

4-H On Parade
Stampede Park
Calgary.....June 1 - 3
Don Stewart – 261-0162 – Calgary

Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology 33rd annual conference
Bessborough Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.....June 3 - 6
Eiler Humbert – (306)966-5024 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Alberta Institute of Agrologists annual conference
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge.....June 6 - 8
Pano Karkanis – 381-5892 – Lethbridge

Alberta Pork Congress
Westerner Park
Red Deer.....June 12 - 14
Pat Kennedy/Ruth Leader – 340-5307 – Red Deer

1990 All-Canada Sheep Classic
Central Fraser Valley Exhibition Park
Clearbrook, British Columbia.....June 14 - 16
Jan Tuytel – (604)530-0148 – Langley, British Columbia

International Agricultural Exchange Association (IAEA) reunion
Olds College
Olds.....June 17 - 24
Bernice Luce – 783-2085 – Ponoka

1990 summer tour—Prairie Parkland chapter, Society of Range Management
Moose Mountain Provincial Park
Kenosee Lake, Saskatchewan.....June 18 - 20
Orville Myrvang – (306)787-5272 – Regina, Saskatchewan

Airseeding '90—an international air seeder technology conference
Regina, Saskatchewan.....June 19 - 21
Bruce Hobin – (306)966-5551 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Engineering the Animal Environment—20 years of research
Edmonton.....June 22
Jerry Leonard – 492-4251 – Edmonton

4-H Club Week
Olds College
Olds.....July 3 - 9
Anita Anderson – 427-2541 – Edmonton

Canadian Hereford Association's 100th birthday
Port O'Call Inn
Calgary.....July 3 - 5
Bev Leavitt – 227-5246 – Innisfail

University of Alberta ranch day
University of Alberta Ranch
Kinsella.....July 5
Mac Makarechian – 492-1316 – Edmonton

Breton Plots field day
Breton Plots
Breton.....July 6
J. A. Robertson – 492-3242 – Edmonton

Calgary Stampede International Stock Show
Stampede Park
Calgary.....July 6 - 15
Don Stewart – 261-0162 – Calgary

Confederacion Interamericana de Ganaderos (CIAGA)
Hosted by Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA)
Convention Centre
Calgary.....July 13 - 17
Post conference tour.....July 18 - 26
Norma Dunn – 228-3467 – Calgary

Irrigation research and development in the 1990's—a working conference
Lethbridge.....July 17 - 20
Water Resources Institute – 329-2002 – Lethbridge

75th anniversary University of Alberta Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry
University of Alberta
Edmonton.....July 19 - 21
Dean's office – 492-4931 – Edmonton

70th annual Agricultural Institute of Canada conference
Penticton Convention Centre
Penticton, British Columbia.....July 22 - 26
Bill Molyneux – (604)494-7711 – Penticton, British Columbia

Canadian Soil Science Society Meetings
Penticton Convention Centre
Penticton, British Columbia ..... July 22 - 26
Gerry Neilsen – (604)494-7711 – Summerland, British Columbia

Alberta Women's Week (60th anniversary)
Olds College
Olds ..... July 23 - 26
Colleen Pierce – 623-5218 – Lac la Biche;
Karen Goad – 227-6565 – Innisfail

Bonanza '90--Canadian Junior Hereford Association annual show
Olds College
Olds ..... August 1 - 4
Joy Gregory – 275-2662 – Calgary

Agriculture and Rural Restructing: A comparative assessment of Canada, the United States and Europe
University of British Columbia
Vancouver ..... August 3 - 4
Ray Bollman – (613)951-3747 – Ottawa, Ontario

Canadian Agricultural Economic and Farm Management Society, annual conference
University of British Columbia
Vancouver ..... August 5 - 8
Ray Bollman – (613)951-3747 – Ottawa, Ontario

23rd International Dairy Congress
Montreal, Quebec ..... October 7 - 12
Richard Stern – (613)238-4116 – Ottawa, Ontario

Rural Canada: Economic and Social Reality
R.H. Coates Building, Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario ..... October 17 - 19
Ray Bollman – (613)952-3747 – Ottawa, Ontario

National Outstanding Young Farmers awards
Stampede Park
Calgary ..... October 18 - 22

Alberta provincial poultry and rabbit show
Stampede Park
Calgary ..... December 1 - 2

Coming agricultural events

- Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **July, August or later in 1990**? Are there any events omitted in the attached list?
- Please state the name of the event.
- What are the dates?
- Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.
- Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.
- This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by May 24, 1990 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News.
The next edition will be printed June 4, 1990)

AGRI-NEWS

March 12, 1990

For immediate release

CANADIANA
MAR 27 1990

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

March 12, 1990
For immediate release

Wind erosion risk high

Many soils in southern and east central Alberta face a high potential for wind erosion from now until mid-June says an Alberta Agriculture specialist based in Airdrie.

"There are clear indications right now that point to high soil erosion risks through the spring and into mid-June," says John Timmermans, soil conservation specialist with the conservation and development branch. "The situation isn't as bad as it was in 1985, but it could be a dirty year."

Wind erosion can occur on any smooth dry soil surface with a lack of sufficient protective cover and strong winds. Two key factors that increase potential wind erosion are the soil's basic characteristics and the amount of crop residue cover available to protect the soil from erosion.

"Wherever highly erodible soils and drought overlap, the potential for wind erosion is highest," says Timmermans. Much of southern Alberta plus scattered areas through eastern and east central Alberta are vulnerable right now. There are also isolated pockets elsewhere in the province. (See attached map.)

Lack of crop residue is a major reason for concerns about soil erosion, he says. Successive years of drought conditions in 1988 and 1989 reduced crops and consequently less residue was left after harvest.

As well, many of the high risk areas are where summerfallowing is most commonly practiced. "Summerfallow fields are usually at the highest risk of erosion, but this year the risk is even higher because of drought effects," says Timmermans.

"To lessen wind erosion risk, farmers are urged to minimize tillage operations on their fields because tillage will quickly bury the already light crop residue," he says. Early application of 2,4-D to delay or replace the first summerfallow cultivation this summer is an option.

(Cont'd)

Wind erosion risk high (cont'd)

The situation isn't all doom and gloom, he says. "Many farmers are changing their soil management practices to better maintain crop residue on the soil surface. Severe wind erosion of the mid-1980s has resulted in increased soil management and soil conservation.

"Nevertheless, greater emphasis from more farmers to jealously maintain crop residues is required to avoid a repeat of the spring of 1985," Timmermans says.

He adds adequate precipitation through the spring would lessen the wind erosion potential. Maintaining stubble will also prevent water erosion from snowmelt and spring rains.

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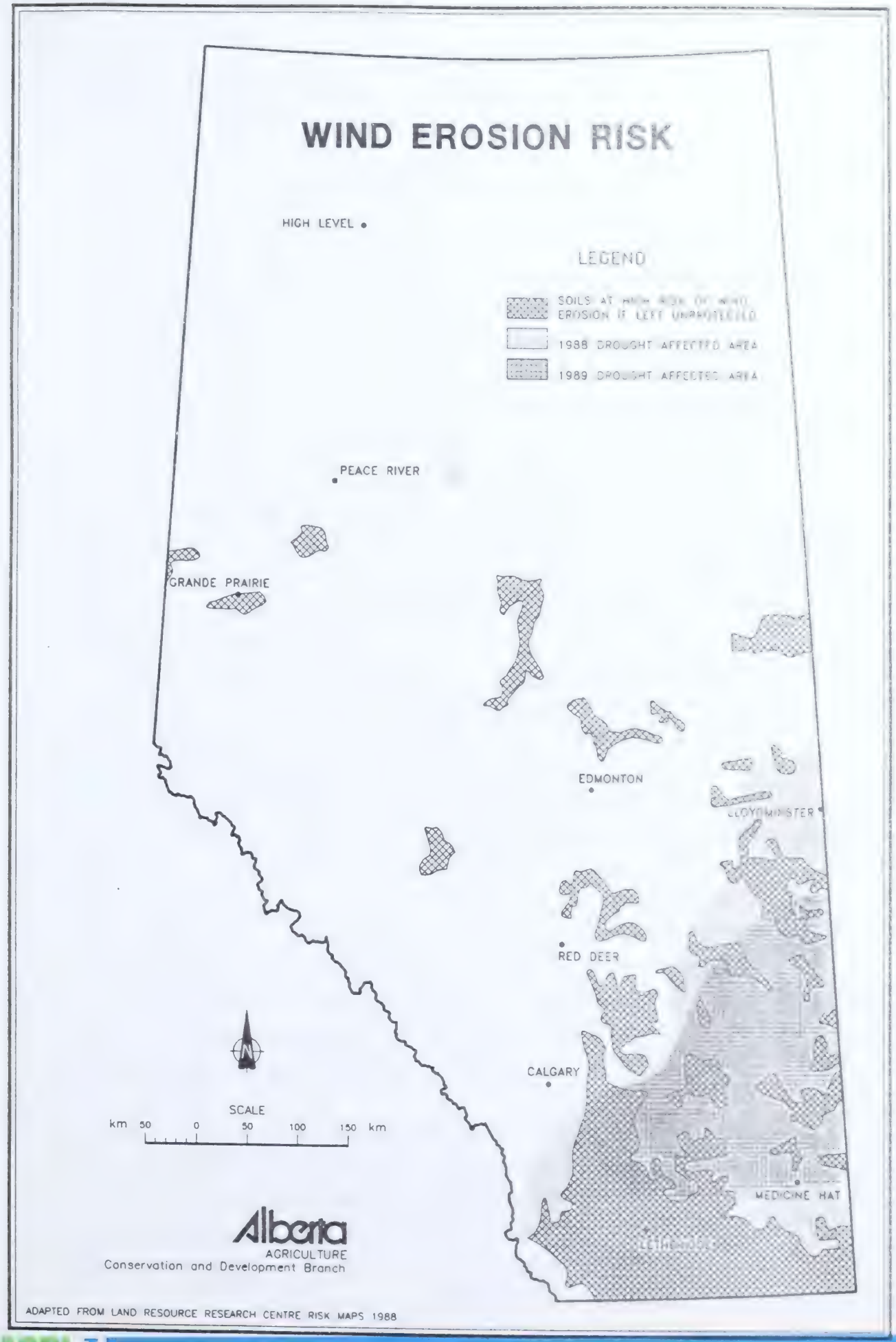
Contact: John Timmermans
948-8539


WIND EROSION RISK
HIGH LEVEL
LEGEND
SOILS AT HIGH RISK OF WIND EROSION IF LEFT UNPROTECTED
1988 DROUGHT AFFECTED AREA
1989 DROUGHT AFFECTED AREA
PEACE RIVER
GRANDE PRAIRIE
EDMONTON
LLOYDMINSTER
RED DEER
CALGARY
MEDICINE HAT
LETHBRIDGE
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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Conservation and Development Branch
ADAPTED FROM LAND RESOURCE RESEARCH CENTRE RISK MAPS 1988

March 12, 1990
For immediate release

Cow condition now key to next year's calving

Keeping a cow in good shape after she calves is one key in getting the cow to cycle and become pregnant in the next breeding season says an Alberta Agriculture ruminant nutritionist.

"Before calving, the cow or heifer needs to be in good condition, neither too fat nor too thin. Maintaining adequate body condition after calving is essential to have cows come into heat and conceive early in the breeding season. A longer calving season and fewer calves can be expected if this isn't achieved," says Barry Yaremcio.

This makes feeding management essential for high reproductive efficiency in the early part of the breeding season, he adds. "Feeding management has to start by having cows in proper body condition prior to calving, but keeping them in good shape once the calf is delivered is also part of any management plan."

After calving, cows require at least 40 per cent more nutrients just to meet lactation needs. "Milk production is a nutritionally expensive process. It requires more energy, protein, calcium, phosphorus, vitamins and trace minerals," he says.

But feeding a herd more, isn't a guarantee all cows are getting the feed they need, he says. "When feeding a large group of animals, it's important to realize that all cows offered the same ration after calving won't be able to maintain condition. Competition at the feed bunk, social rank, efficiency of nutrient use for maintenance and milk production all influence the cow's ability to maintain weight.

"Studies have shown that feeding for the average cow won't keep all animals in proper shape for the breeding season. Timid or smaller animals might not get their full daily ration and can be problems later on," he says.

One way to remedy the problem is to divide a cow herd into two groups according to the different needs of the animals, says Yaremcio. Put cows in good shape that can maintain themselves in one group and those requiring special attention or higher feeding levels in another. Additional grain can be fed to the thinner animals.

(Cont'd)

The extra feed given to the thin group of animals won't increase costs very much and long term benefits can be great, he says. "Having cows cycling and conceiving early in the breeding season will result in higher long run net returns to the producer."

Yaremcio also says the cows should be condition scored to see if they are maintaining condition or losing weight. The body condition of an animal will influence its nutritional needs and reproductive ability. A mature cow should be at a condition score of 2.5 to 3.0 at calving. After calving the cows must maintain body condition and weight to cycle 40 to 60 days after calving.

Heifers require more condition at calving. A 3.0 score is preferred, he says. Heifers need the extra conditioning to continue to grow, to repair the uterus and to maintain milk production. It takes first calf heifers an additional 20 days to cycle compared to mature cows.

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Contact: Barry Yaremcio
436-9150

March 12, 1990
For immediate release

Changes and challenges for special crops in the '90s

In the last decade speciality crop acreage grew tremendously along with new technologies, markets and opportunities for Western Canadian farmers a recent Alberta agricultural outlook conference was told.

"Special crop production in the '90s will contribute to farm income and cash flow and allow us to maintain and develop our market share, contributing in a very positive way to the economy of Western Canada," says Gerald Donkersgoed, of Elders Grain Company in Surrey, B.C. Donkersgoed was speaking at Accent'90 in Calgary.

Canada has moved from being a residual supplier to a major supplier, he says. Peas, lentils, mustard and canaryseed are the major specialty crops grown in Western Canada and Donkersgoed looked ahead at the prospects for these four crops.

Despite expected increases in acreage in both the United States and Turkey, lentil prices should remain stable through the next crop year, he says. "Contracts are available at 19 cents a pound and prices are unlikely to be much lower than that in the coming year unless large crops are produced in all growing areas."

Prospects for canaryseed aren't as promising as Canadian carryover will be large and may be as much as 60,000 tonnes. "We may have the 1990 crop already in the bin," he notes.

Pea acreage in Canada will be relatively stable this year at about 400,000 acres. Over the long term, opportunities for Alberta producers appear encouraging. "Over 100,000 tonnes of soya meal are imported to Alberta each year, much of this could be replaced by peas," he says. Next year he says he expects prices to remain around $4 to $4.50 per bushel for feed peas and slightly better for human grade peas.

New crop contract prices for mustard also compare favorably with those of other crops grown in global mustard producing areas.

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Contact: Gerald Donkersgoed
(604)597-2222

Al Dooley
427-5383

March 12, 1990
For immediate release

Oat market encouraging in 1990s

Canadian oats have an encouraging future in the 1990s participants at the annual Alberta agricultural outlook conference were told.

"Several factors should contribute to the growth of the Canadian oat market," Randy Stychar, a senior trader with XCan Grain in Winnipeg told Accent'90 in Calgary last month.

Growth doesn't always mean high prices or more volume, he says. "We will not always have higher prices or higher exports; the weather or external international market factors can see to that. We need, however, to strive to have a consistent market with steady growth. A market in which a Canadian producer knows he can obtain fair market value and, hopefully, a profit for his investment year after year." Stychar says the way to achieve that kind of growth is through meeting the specific needs of specific markets.

The largest market in the early 1990s for Canadian oats will be the United States. Currently almost 85 per cent of Canadian oats are shipped to the American midwestern market.

Other developing markets for Canadian oats are Japan and Korea. Both countries have increased their imports of Canadian oats. Other potential markets are Mexico, Taiwan and Indonesia.

In the short term, Stychar says oat prices will be flat. In the longer term, three to nine months, he says, the situation will be more interesting. Dry conditions in U.S. oat growing areas could mean a bull market. "I do not, at this time, expect to see the same type of bull market we had in 1988-89, unless the dry conditions continue throughout the summer months or crop conditions or acreage is substantially reduced in Canada."

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Contact: Randy Stychar
(204)949-1388

Charlie Pearson
472-5386

March 12, 1990
For immediate release

Conference explores beef opportunities in Pacific Rim

Beef producers, processors and distributors can take a closer look at opportunities for Canadian beef in the Pacific Rim at a two-day conference in Calgary later this month.

Sponsored by the Canada West Foundation, the conference will be at the Calgary Convention Centre March 29 and 30.

One of the leading experts on beef consumption in Japan will be the conference's keynote speaker. William Gorman is a professor of agricultural economics at New Mexico State University. His topic is the players, rules and payoffs of beef in Japan in the 1990s.

Billed as a forum to exchange information, conference speakers are divided into four sessions on: opportunities and strategies for beef exports to Japan; constraints on beef exports to Japan; reducing constraints for beef exports to Japan; and, avenues for co-operation to enhance export performance.

Beef industry representatives from a number of countries will be speaking on successful strategies for entering the Japanese market. More than 20 expert speakers from Canada, Australia, Great Britain, Japan, New Zealand and the United States are part of the conference line-up.

Alberta Agriculture is a co-sponsor and will be represented by two speakers. Barry Mehr, assistant deputy minister for marketing, will discuss promoting Canadian beef in Japan and David Wong, senior trade director for Asia\Pacific, will be a panel member addressing co-operative approaches for increasing exports.

For more information contact Tom Penner, conference co-ordinator, at Canada West Foundation, 404, 600-6th Ave S.W., Calgary, T2P 0S5 or call 264-3939.

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Contact: Tom Penner
264-3939

David Wong
427-4241

March 12, 1990
For immediate release

Consumer perceptions differ from food safety realities

Consumer perceptions of the food supply are very different from the reality of Canada's food supply safety Calgary and Edmonton audiences were told during National Meat Month luncheons.

Misinformation and disinformation have made consumers confused and concerned about food safety, says Ron Ball. Ball is an assistant professor at University of Guelph's animal and poultry science department and University of Toronto's faculty of medicine human nutrition section.

"The real risks in eating are too much food, too much fat, too little fiber and poor food handling," he says, and adds these are consumer choices, not anything that food producers can affect.

But, consumers list hormones and antibiotics at the top of their list of food dangers followed by pesticides and pathogens. The reality, Ball says, is that pathogens in food are the biggest risk of the four. And the risk is one of consumers own making, by how they handle and prepare their food. "Even then, there is more risk of being hit by lightening than salmonellosis poisoning," he says. Ball cites risk of death statistics that list the chance being hit by lightening as 0.6 in 1,000 and salmonellosis as 0.01 and botulism as 0.02 in 1,000 respectively.

The perception-reality gap has been fed by a bad news making the news syndrome and advertising campaigns that mislead consumers, he says. Misinformation, Ball says, is best explained by a Cornell University professor who said, "When it comes to chemicals, if it ain't bad news, it isn't news at all." An example of disinformation is a company proclaiming their peanut butter has no cholesterol, implying other brands do. In fact, no plant product has cholesterol.

(Cont'd)

Consumer perceptions differ from food safety realities (cont'd)

Information is the best bridge between current consumer perceptions and the facts about Canada's food supply, he says. But, he adds, consumers have to be given good information. Bad information increases consumer stress and anxiety, causes harmful nutrition decisions, leaves consumers open to exploitation by clever marketing, causes food producers anguish and can result in consumers rejecting all information.

This makes it necessary for food information to be communicated openly and honestly, he says. Health professionals such as doctors and dieticians and government are probably the most credible sources of that information, he adds.

Agriculture Canada's residue testing program and the steps required in approving a drug for use on livestock are two things consumers need to know more about, he says. In 1989 less than one per cent of the 60,000 food samples tested by Agriculture Canada were found to have above allowable levels of tested residues. In 1990 sampling will be doubled, he adds.

These test results, he says, bring up the question: if there are no violations, are the safety levels set too low? Ball cites an example of a common growth hormone used in meat production to produce leaner meat more cheaply. The hormone concentration in a treated animal is about 0.127 nanograms per kilogram. (A nanogram is one-billionth of a gram, roughly equivalent to a teaspoon of water in a railroad tanker car.) The calculated human safe intake is 135 nanograms per day. That means a 60 kilogram person would need to eat more than 1,063 kilograms of meat per day to exceed a safe dosage.

Many consumers aren't aware that their own bodies produce hormones daily and that foods such as cabbage contain many more times as much estrogen as is contained in meat. For example, he says, 100 grams of cabbage contains 2,400 nanograms of estrogen. The equivalent amount of beef from a treated steer containes about 1.9 nanograms and from an untreated steer 1.2 nanograms.

(Cont'd)

Real food risks are consumer choices (cont'd)

Ball also discussed antibiotic residues. A three-year United States National Academy of Sciences study concluded in its report this February there was no direct evidence of increased disease in humans from subtherapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock. Further, in 1989 Agriculture Canada random testing, no beef was found to contain antibiotic residues and pork was 99.8 per cent clear.

As well, stringent Health and Welfare guidelines regulate the approval of drugs. Human safety, the target animal's safety, the performance of the drug, the manufacturing process and labelling and advertising are thoroughly investigated. Seven toxicity tests for human safety are examined, he says. The whole process takes years of study and investigation before a new drug can be licensed for use.

National Meat Month was sponsored in Alberta by the Alberta Cattle Commission, the Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation, the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission, Alberta Agriculture, the Beef Information Centre and the Canadian Meat Council.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

March 12, 1990
For immediate release

Time to start tuberous begonias indoors

Spectacular summer flowers are the reward of starting begonia plants indoors now says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Begonias are very attractive plants with very beautiful flowers in reds, oranges, yellows and pinks. They are commonly used in flower beds and pendula types can be grown in hanging baskets," says Pam North, of Alberta Agriculture's Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

Starting begonias begins with selecting healthy tubers, large ones with no signs of mold. Plant them in flats with drainage holes in a mixture of one part peat moss and one part perlite or vermiculite. Moisten and push right-side up (depression or concave side) tubers into the soil. The top of the tuber should be flush with the soil surface.

Place flats in a warm, no less than 18 degrees Celsius, and shady location. Once tubers sprout, move them to a bright location but keep them out of direct sunlight during the warmest part of the day.

Begonias are ready to be transplanted when they are about three inches high. Plant in individual four to five inch pots, use a potting soil high in peat moss and be careful not to damage the roots, North says.

When growing indoors the begonia should be kept in bright light. "If it's too dark they will get tall and spindly, but you do need to protect the plants from hot direct sun," she says. Soil should be moist but not saturated. Water around the tubers rather than on top to prevent rotting.

Begonias can be transplanted outside once the risk of frost is past. "They are very sensitive to frost," warns North. Begonias are a good plant for shady locations.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

March 12, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

PROVINCIAL 4-H SPEAK-OFF APRIL 7

The public is invited to come and listen to some of the best young public speakers in the province at the annual provincial 4-H public speaking finals in Calgary April 7. The finals will be held in the Kinsmen Centre at Stampede Park starting at 2 p.m. Fourteen 4-H members from across Alberta will present their speeches to their audience and six judges. Each participant will give a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. Topics for the prepared speeches are given one week prior to the competition. Participants advance to provincial competition through club, district and regional speaking competitions. Alberta Agriculture and the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede are the joint sponsors of this year's event. For information contact the Alberta Agriculture 4-H branch at 427-2541.

PLANTING IN THE DUST PERFORMANCES

"Planting in the Dust", a highly acclaimed play about one woman's struggle with soil conservation, will be playing to audiences in ten Alberta locations this month. The run starts tonight in Holden and ends on March 22 in Spruce Grove. The play is produced by the Land Stewardship Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of sustainable agriculture. The one-woman play centers around Annie and her return to the family farm. American actress Laura Clark, who originated the role in 1984, stars in the play that has been staged in the U.S. and Canada. "Planting in the Dust" will be in Holden March 12, St. Michael March 13, Two Hills March 14, Vermilion March 15, Ponoka March 16, Leduc March 17, Edson March 19, St. Paul March 20, Barrhead March 21 and Spruce Grove on March 22. Most host districts have other functions associated with the play. Alberta Agriculture district offices and agricultural service boards are sponsoring the play and can be contacted for more information.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

TIME TO START GERANIUM CUTTINGS

The time is right to take cuttings from geraniums to start new plants says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist. "If people have kept plants actively growing in a window they can start to take cuttings now. Sooner is better because rooting takes from six to 10 weeks," says Pam North, of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre. Cuttings should be taken from the end of branches and should be four to six inches long. Lay the cuttings out on a table overnight or for a few hours to heal the cut surface. Water isn't recommended for rooting as cuttings will often rot, she says. Instead use a mix of half peat moss and half perlite or vermiculite. "Moisten this and then push the cuttings in so they stand upright," North says. Cover the cuttings with a clear plastic bag to keep humidity high and prevent the cuttings from drying out until they have rooted. "If you do cover them with plastic, keep them in bright light but out of direct sunlight," she adds. After cuttings have rooted they can be planted in individual pots using a mixture of one part pasteurized loam, one part peat moss and one part perlite or vermiculite. Place in a bright sunny window, southern or eastern exposures are preferred. Avoid over watering. For more information, contact North at 472-6043.

VIDEOS PORTRAY PROVINCE

Three videos that capture the dynamism of Alberta and its strengths are now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's Film Library. Leslie Neilsen narrates "Alberta--Portrait of a Province" (VT-310-6), a 29-minute tapestry of Alberta for non-Albertan audiences. There is also a nine minute version. "The Albertans" (VT 310-7) is an award-winning series of vignettes promoting the province and people of Alberta. The 10 minute video was produced by Frame 30 Productions for Alberta Economic Development and Trade. A five minute promotional look at Alberta's economy, "Alberta, Strong and Free" (VT 310-8), is also available. For loan information, contact the Alberta Agriculture Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
APR - 2 1990

March 19, 1990

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

March 19, 1990
For immediate release

Isley announces new farm financing plan

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced the introduction of a vendor mortgage financing plan to be offered by the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) starting June 1.

The Vendor Mortgage Plan is designed to keep Albertans investing in the province's agriculture industry, and will help parents pass their farms on to their children. Through the new plan, ADC will guarantee to the seller of a farm the loan for its purchase. In turn, the seller will carry the mortgage for the purchaser. ADC will take care of the credit assessment, collections and legal work.

"The farm families of Alberta need a flexible way to pass their farms on to the next generation. Vendor financing fills that need," says Isley.

The plan is geared to farm operators facing retirement and is ideal for family transfers. However, sellers and purchasers using the Vendor Mortgage Plan need not be related.

"Farmers providing mortgages for farmers restores a traditional source of funding for agriculture in Alberta," says Isley. "When farmers retain their investment in the farm, everyone wins. Purchasers can gain valuable experience and management skills from the previous owners. Sellers can receive an attractive rate of return on their investment. And investment funds stay in Alberta, for the benefit of all Albertans."

Isley also notes farm groups such as Unifarm and the Alberta Wheat Pool support the move. "Unifarm is happy to formally endorse ADC's plan," says Ralph Jesperson, Unifarm president. "It's gratifying to see the concept become a reality, and to have been consulted in the process."

Ray Schmitt, president of the Alberta Wheat Pool, echoed the sentiment, calling ADC's plan "a convenient financing option, easy to tailor to a variety of needs."

(Cont'd)

One of the plan's highlights is the provision of low interest rates to borrowers. "It's up to the vendor and borrower to set the rate of interest, as long as the rate doesn't exceed ADC's preferred lending rate, now at nine per cent," says Isley. Borrowers who qualify under ADC's Beginning Farmer Program also receive an interest rate reduction of up to three per cent for the first five years of their loans.

Sellers can receive an attractive rate of return for retaining their investment in the farm. ADC will set a vendor mortgage rate which will compare with the return on a five-year Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC). Sellers will receive the difference between ADC's preferred rate and its vendor mortgage rate, making the plan an appealing alternative to traditional investments, like Canada Savings Bonds.

Isley also pointed out the plan is a unique option for Alberta's farm families, with advantages for both parties in the farm sale transaction. "Borrowers get a break on interest rates and sellers can earn a market rate of return on their investment. I am confident that the plan will be a popular and very effective, financing option for the farming community."

Isley made the announcement March 9 in Grande Prairie at the Peace Country Classic.

ADC is a crown corporation delivering financial consulting and lending services to farmers, secondary food processors and other agribusinesses in Alberta.

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Contact: Bob Splane
ADC, President
and managing director
679-1302

Brad Klak
Executive assistant
to the Minister
427-2137

March 19, 1990
For immediate release

Classroom program links food, nutrition and agriculture

Teaching elementary school children milk comes from cows, not cartons, is one of Explore Nutritious Alberta's aims.

"Today fewer Alberta families are involved in farming, so the majority of children have few opportunities to learn how agricultural foods are produced or to develop an appreciation for the role and diversity of Alberta's agriculture industry," says Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

Program materials highlight Alberta's agricultural products and the range of processed food produced in the province in specific lessons for grades one to six. Through these lessons, Explore Nutritious Alberta bridges the information gap, but it goes further to teach how food, nutrition and agriculture fit together.

The program's message has been a popular one, says Whitmore. Since Alberta Agriculture launched the program in 1987, about 4,500 teachers have taken the prerequisite nutrition education workshop. At the two-hour introductory workshop with an Alberta Agriculture district home economist, teachers learn nutrition information for the unit and receive the program's resource materials to take back to their classrooms.

"The key feature of Explore Nutritious Alberta is that it gives children a good grounding in nutrition, so they can make healthy choices throughout their lives. They're also given decision making and problem solving experience that applies to their daily lives," says Whitmore.

All the lessons are presented through the eyes of "Club 4", a fictitious group of four elementary school children interested in nutrition. The friends are from a variety of social and economic backgrounds and the situations in the lessons were chosen to reflect the province's diversity.

(Cont'd)

Classroom program links food, nutrition and agriculture (cont'd)

Each lesson has a story involving one of the Club 4, a related activity, a follow-up suggestion for the teacher and one for the student to take home.

Whitmore credits the program's success to its ease of use and how it fits in with the mandatory elementary health curriculum. There are posters and full color pictures to use as visual aids. Teachers can photocopy the materials--stories and activities--for use in class. As well as supporting the health curriculum, there are follow-up suggestions to several other subjects including physical education, social studies, language arts, math and art.

For more information on the Explore Nutritious Alberta program, contact any Alberta Agriculture district office, the regional food and nutrition specialist in Airdrie (948-8504) or the home economics branch in Edmonton at 427-2412.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

March 19, 1990
For immediate release

Conservation cultivator demonstrated

An east central Alberta municipality is expanding a research and awareness project that uses a specialized cultivator to control soil erosion.

With funding assistance from the Canada-Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT), the Municipal District of Provost is undertaking a two-year project. "This project flows from a 1989 project that demonstrated a narrow spaced wide blade cultivator on erosion prone soil," says Carol Bettac, northeast regional soil conservation co-ordinator. Commonly known as the Noble blade, the cultivator shears off weeds and stubble just below the surface and causes minimum soil disturbance. This plow is well adapted to the drier areas of the province, the Brown and Dark Brown soil zones.

"The new project will continue to look at alternatives to conventional summerfallow. It will also look at how these practices conserve moisture as well as promoting soil conservation awareness in the municipality," she says.

Local farmers with erosion prone soil will be co-operating in the project. Six demonstration sites ranging from 80 to 160 acres will be used in the project. Each demonstration plot will be divided in half and one half will receive conventional summerfallow treatment. The other half will be summerfallowed using the narrow spaced wide blade cultivator system. Demonstration plots will also be sprayed with herbicides to control weed populations. Sites will be monitored after each cultivation. Soil moisture, soil residue, yield and weed population data will be collected.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production. Projects must meet this criteria to be given funding approval.

For more information about the project contact Burt Forbes, Municipal District of Provost agricultural fieldman, at 753-2434.

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Contact: Carol Bettac
853-8109

March 19, 1990
For immediate release

Shelterbelt awareness grows

Most windbreaks, or shelterbelts, you see when driving around the province have been planted to protect farmsteads and farm homes, but farmers have been using trees more and more to protect their fields says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"In the last few years, the lack of snow cover to protect crop land has created a greater awareness of the benefits of field shelterbelts," says Brendan Casement, shelterbelt specialist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

Casement says multiple row shelterbelts have been used to protect fields, but single rows of some tree varieties can provide enough wind reduction to prevent crop damage and soil loss.

"Proper planting is the key to reducing wind, so the farmer can protect his valuable soil and crop. Even two years after planting there can be a noticeable increase in plant growth, and after 15 years a definite increase in total yield from the protected area. However, the most noticeable yield increases are in years with weather extremes," he says.

Green ash, acute-leaf willow, caragana, dogwood and Siberian larch are the varieties that will work in single rows. All of these varieties are available through the Alberta Shelterbelt Program. Most are free for field shelterbelts through funding from the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI).

"It's too late to order trees for planting this spring, but local district agriculturists and agricultural fieldmen accept orders between June 1 and November 1 for planting the following spring," he says. District agriculturists and agricultural fieldmen can also provided information about shelterbelt design and suitable varieties for the local area.

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Contact: Brendan Casement
472-6043

March 19, 1990
For immediate release

Growing bedding plants from seed

Gardeners who want to start their own bedding plants from seed should be starting soon says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Growing your own bedding plants begins with choosing what you want to grow and buying the seed either locally or through a catalogue, but that step should be behind you now," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

When to start the plants depends on their type. North advises checking the Alberta Horticultural Guide for seeding dates for annual flowers. Guides are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre (R.R. 6, Edmonton, T5B 4K3).

Seeding is easy, she says. Use a container with good drainage. "You can buy flats or recycle household containers such as yogurt containers and egg or milk cartons," she says.

Next is a growing media. A soil-based or soilless mix can be used. "Buy a mix or mix your own at home. A good all purpose mix is one part pasteurized loam, one part peat moss and one part perlite or vermiculite," North says.

Fill containers with growing media and tamp down lightly. The soil surface should be even. Leave a half-inch at the top of the container. Spread seed evenly over the soil surface or in rows. Don't seed too heavily. If plants are crowded, they are more likely to be spindly.

Cover seeds to a depth twice its diameter. For example, a quarter-inch sized seed should be covered with a half inch of vermiculite or a moist growing media. Then, water with a fine mist or soak the flats in a basin of water until the soil is moist.

Bedding plants should be grown under high light conditions says North. Windows with a southern or eastern exposure are preferred. If growing under artificial lights, use one warm white and one cool white fluorescent tube.

(Cont'd)

Growing bedding plants from seed (cont'd)

Once the plants have germinated they should be pricked out. "Pricking out means transferring seedlings to individual containers for maximum growth. This process should start when seedlings have their second set of leaves or first set of "true" leaves," she says.

Lift plants gently and separate their root systems. Replant into their own individual container such as a peat pot or cell pack. Fertilize with a starter solution such as 10-52-10.

For more information about growing bedding plants, contact North at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

March 19, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture Appointments

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN LLOYDMINSTER

Lloydminster's new district agriculturist is Harry Brook. For the last three and a half years he was cattle manager of a mixed farm in the Carstairs area. Before that, he was a resource agrologist with the energy and natural resources department for six years. "I'm enjoying Lloydminster and the people in the area. I hope to meet and work with all of you in the future," he says. His duties as district agriculturist include consulting with farmers and agribusiness, organizing seminars and assisting community and farm groups with agricultural activities.

HARRY BROOK

Brook is a 1979 graduate of the University of Alberta's BSc in agriculture program. He can be reached in Lloydminster at 871-6460.

NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST IN BARRHEAD

Cindy Bishop has moved south to Barrhead to take up duties as the district home economist for the area. Since the spring of 1987, she held the same position in High Prairie. Bishop, originally from Winnipeg, was introduced to Alberta Agriculture in 1986 when she trained as a district home economist at the Camrose district office. Later that year, she took on a term position in Fairview. "I'm looking forward to meeting farm families in the Barrhead area both in the office on their farms. I hope they'll take advantages of the services and information I can offer as their district home economist. I plan to focus my attention on the four key areas of farm financial management, marketing Alberta food products, leadership development and 4-H," she says. Bishop can be reached in Barrhead at 674-8213.

(Cont'd)

GRANDE PRAIRIE HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Paul Laflamme has moved from Alberta Agriculture's Fort Vermilion district office to become the new Grande Prairie district agriculturist. He takes over the position from Miles Kuryvial who is taking a two-year secondment to work in agribusiness. Laflamme has spent the last two years in Fort Vermilion and also trained in the Peace region at the Valleyview district office. Laflamme grew up in the Peace region. He was born in Falher and raised on his family's grain farm near there. He also farmed for seven years after completing high school. Laflamme is a 1986 University of Alberta BSc in agriculture graduate. "I'm looking forward to working with farm families and agribusiness in the Grande Prairie area," he says. He can be reached in Grande Prairie at 538-5285.

PAUL LAFLAMME

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March 19, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

THE URGE TO TILL

Tillage is a centuries old practice that many consider the basis of farming, but is it really necessary? A new Alberta Agriculture production "Urge to Till" (F/VT 516-3), explores the effects of this practice on soil and water conservation. In the 20-minute presentation a number of new practices and their related machinery are reviewed. Farmers and soil experts contribute their views on conservation farming and our role in land stewardship. "Urge to Till" is available for loan as a 16 mm film or as a video. For loan information, write the Alberta Agriculture Film Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

TOP INDEXING BULLS OFFERED AT COLLEGE SALE

About 100 top indexing bulls from the Lakeland College Bull Test Centre will go through the sale ring Saturday March 31 in Vermilion. About 275 bulls representing 10 breeds were on test during this sixth year of the centre's operation. Sandra Schneider, college farm technologist, says the bulls have been gaining 3.1 to 3.3 pounds per day. Sale animals must index 100 or better based on average daily weight gain from birth to test centre entry and during the 140 days at the test. Last year's sales receipts totaled over a quarter million dollars for 103 lots with an average price of $2,485. The high seller was a Simmental at $9,000. Other breeds on test include Charolais, Red and Black Angus, Gelbvieh, Horned and Polled Hereford, Salers, Maine Anjou, Shorthorn, Blonde d'Aquitaine and Limousin. Past sales have seen animals find new homes from British Columbia through Manitoba. Test data will be mailed on request by contacting Schneider at 853-8595.

1990 ALBERTA OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS NAMED

Grain and vegetable farmers John and Bonnie Van Nistelrooy, of Enchant, were recently selected the 1990 Outstanding Young Farmers for Alberta at ceremonies in Lethbridge. The Van Nistelrooys will represent

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

1990 OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS NAMED (cont'd)

the northwest region in October at the national recognition program in Calgary. Judging criteria includes progress in agricultural career, production history, community contributions and soil, energy and water conservation. The Alberta program is administered by the Lethbridge Jaycees and sponsored by the Lethbridge and District Exhibition, Time Air and Esso/Engro. For more information contact Don Leon in Lethbridge at 329-4895 or 329-7100.

NEW COMPETITION ADDED TO CALGARY INTERNATIONAL STOCK SHOW

A supreme champion competition will be incorporated in the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede's International Stock Show. Grand champion males and females from the 14 beef cattle shows will advance to compete for supremacy on Sunday, July 15. A panel of seven judges will decide the supreme champions. The male and female supreme champions will each receive a $5,000 cash prize and will be paraded to the grandstand immediately following the final Stampede chuckwagon performance. For more information, contact the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, Agriculture Administration, Box 1060, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2K8 or call toll-free 1-800-661-1260. In the Calgary area call 261-0162.

NANTON FARMER WINS WEATHERADIO RECEIVER

David Anderson, of Nanton, will be able to listen to up-to-date weather forecasts on the new weatheradio receiver he recently won at Ag Expo in Lethbridge. Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch held the draw at their display booth with the prize supplied by Bridgecom Electronics of Lethbridge. Weatheradio Canada operates four transmitters in Alberta. Two are located in the Edmonton area with the others in Lethbridge and Calgary. Weather information is transmitted continuously over the VHF-FM radio frequency at 162.40, 162.475 or 162.55 megahertz (MHz). A special receiver or a good quality multi-band radio is needed to receive the signal. For more information about Weatheradio, contact Peter Dzikowski at 422-4385.

AGRI-NEWS

APR 12 1990

March 26, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

March 26, 1990
For immediate release

Spring vaccination program for cattle

Spring vaccination against reproductive diseases is an important part of a cow-calf producer's herd management plan says an Alberta Agriculture beef cattle veterinarian.

"Infectious reproductive diseases may prevent pregnancy or kill developing fetuses any time during pregnancy, so it's important to ensure breeding stock has adequate immunity against these types of diseases before cows are pregnant. Appropriate vaccines given at least three weeks before the start of the breeding season will likely result in good immunity," says Casey Schipper, of the health management branch.

Bovine virus diarrhea (BVD) is a common reproductive disease in Alberta. BVD can cause cow reproductive failure including abortion and births of weak or malformed calves. The virus can also permanently damage the fetal immune system and as a result, calves can't form antibodies to the BVD virus and will remain persistently infected. Economic losses from the disease can be significant for the farmer, he adds.

At this time of year, a modified live vaccine (MLV) can be used on open cows. Then, fetuses in BVD immune cows--previously exposed or vaccinated animals--aren't likely to be damaged by the virus if the herd is exposed to BVD during the summer, he says.

Spring vaccination with a MLV is also more economical, he adds. "Administering one dose of MLV BVD vaccine in this spring at 60 cents per cow, saves vaccinating a pregnant cow herd in the fall with two doses of killed vaccines at $5 per cow. Even though killed BVD vaccines can be safely used in pregnant cattle, to me the practice of fall BVD vaccinations is comparable to fencing a dugout after a child has drowned."

Another virus associated with reproductive failure, particularly late abortions, is infectious bovine rhintracheitis (IBR). Disease outbreaks in the province are common and unpredictable, he adds.

(Cont'd)

"Practicing veterinarians can obtain a variety of modified-live vaccines, some of which contain IBR as well as the BVD virus. These vaccines may be given by intramuscular injection at this time of year since open cows cannot abort," says Schipper.

Campylobacteriosis of cattle, which used to be called vibriosis, is also a preventable infectious reproductive disease. The bacteria are transmitted from cow to cow via bulls during the breeding season. Infected cows often show repeat breeding, conceive late or will remain open. This disease is more common in southern Alberta than other areas of the province, he notes.

"Campylobacter vaccines are effective if given at least three weeks apart to replacement breeding stock and once to older cattle. The last dose must be given at least four weeks before the females are exposed to a bull," he says.

Western Canadian producers rarely encounter the bacterial urinary tract infection leptospirosis, common known as lepto, he says. Lepto also causes late pregnancy abortions. "A local veterinarian should be consulted before vaccinating for lepto. Vaccination is probably unnecessary because of low risk. Economically, it should only be considered where this disease is commonly recognized," he adds. Lepto is more common in hot humid climates with alkaline soils and an abundance of wildlife and surface water.

Because of vaccine costs and the labor required to handle cattle, Schipper recommends producers consult their local veterinarian about up-to-date information on the local incidence of reproductive diseases and the potential benefits from vaccinating before the breeding season.

For more information, contact Schipper at Alberta Agriculture's animal health division in Edmonton at 436-9343.

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Contact: Dr. Casey Schipper
436-9343

March 26, 1990
For immediate release

Silicon increases cucumber yields

Alberta greenhouse growers have been able to increase their cucumber yields with help from scientists at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

By using silicon in nutrient solutions for their long English cucumbers, growers have increased their production yields by as much as 20 per cent says Mohyuddin Mirza, greenhouse extension specialist. The technology was passed on to Alberta growers last year through seminars and individual visits to growers.

Silicon occurs naturally in water and soil, but its quantities are limited for use in hydroponic systems. So, Mirza and his staff, worked on a way to get silicon to the plants and developed a process of adding silicon to growing media. Soilless media manufacturers are expected to provide growers with mixes containing silicon soon, he adds.

The idea of adding silicon to nutrient solutions isn't new, Mirza says. In 1984, Japanese and English scientists reported it controlled powdery mildew in cucumbers. "But, they also reported problems with how to actually get the silicon to the plants through a nutrient solution," he adds.

Research at the centre showed the presence of silicon not only reduced the devastating effects of powdery mildew fungus on cucumbers but also improved the general plant health and cucumber's shelf life. By adding potassium silicate to the nutrient solution the root environment improves and all nutrient uptake by the plant increases, Mirza says. "Plant leaves become more upright and can trap more sunlight which improves plant food production and increases the useful productive life of the plant."

The centre's staff are continuing their silicon studies on other plants including greenhouse lettuce and the range of bedding plants produced in Alberta.

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Contact: Mohyuddin Mirza
472-6043

March 26, 1990
For immediate release

Research centre tests subsoilers

Testing equipment that helps farmers break-up compacted soils has been a challenge for the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre.

"Interest in subsoiling or ripping compacted soils has been growing in southern Alberta," says Greg Magyar, a field technologist with the centre. "Farmer interest has meant looking at the technology and equipment. And because it's relatively new, this project was different than the usual evaluation project that the centre's staff works on.

"The test seemed more like a research project than an evaluation project. Being a brand new project for us, many test procedures had to be developed. As well, the project team discovered some basic rules for subsoiling."

Subsoiling is much deeper than the two to four inches of a conventional tillage operation. Its purpose is to break-up the hardpan, or compact, layer just below the soil's surface. This layer is caused by successive tillage operations and or from water applied through sprinkler irrigation or intense natural rainfall. It also helps to improve solonetzic soils.

Determining that the compacted soil problem existed and then soil moisture conditions, were the team's starting points. Soil must be fairly dry in order to get a good fracture, or breaking up, he says. Then, because subsoilers operate at depths of one to two feet, the land had to be checked for underground cables and lines.

The evaluation team looked at three types of rippers. One was a deep tiller with edge on shanks and a spring-trip release; another, a paraplow design; and, the third, a parabolic shank ripper.

"Each type works best in different circumstances," Magyar says. The spring-trip release deep tiller worked best in rocky conditions. If maintaining surface trash is a consideration, the paraplow disturbed the soil surface the least. The parabolic design was best for subsoiling to depths below 20 inches.

(Cont'd)

Research centre tests subsoilers (cont'd)

"Subsoiling is a high draft tillage operation. All three units we evaluated required a great deal of horsepower and had high operation costs in terms of fuel consumed and field efficiencies," he says.

Currently the research project team is completing reports on the project it ran last fall on southern Alberta farms. Complete reports on all three units tested will be available later this year.

For more information on subsoilers, contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre, 3000 College Drive, Lethbridge, T5K 1L6 or call 329-1212.

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Contact: Greg Magyar
329-1212

Lawrence Papworth
329-1212

March 26, 1990
For immediate release

Call before you dig

If you're contemplating a spring project that involves digging or deep tillage, stop and make a telephone call before you start, says Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager.

"Before you go ahead with any spring project, ask yourself if you know what's buried under the surface of your property and if you do, do you know exactly where it is," cautions Solomon Kyeremanteng. "You can save yourself time, expense and perhaps injury by making a phone call and having lines marked before you start a dugout, a new fence or any other 'digging' project."

There are countless miles of buried cables, pipelines and other lines in the province and each year more are added. Every year, too, people discover what's beneath the ground after they've hit telephone cables, gas lines, electrical cables and high pressure pipelines. The result can range through minor repairs, injuries, lawsuits and death.

A telephone call to Alberta 1st Call can prevent unnecessary risks, says Kyeremanteng. By calling at least two full working days before digging, owners and operators of buried facilities can arrange to mark the locations of their lines or cables. Farmers can call Alberta 1st Call toll-free at 1-800-242-3447.

Alberta 1st Call is a non-profit organization with 108 current members that include cities, towns, villages, counties, natural gas co-ops and pipeline, natural gas, electrical, telephone and cable television companies.

Once the location of buried cables have been marked, it's the excavator's responsibility to hand expose the lines before using mechanical equipment. Hand excavation is required within one metre of any facility except high pressure pipelines. The area within 30 meters of either side of a high pressure pipeline is a controlled area and the owner must be notified of your intention to disturb the ground within this area.

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Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

Alberta 1st Call
229-4322

Editor's note

The following articles were written in support of National Soil Conservation Week, April 9 - 15. This week is designated annually to raise awareness of the importance of soil conservation practices. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch in Edmonton at 422-4385.

March 26, 1990
For immediate release

Getting the message across

Getting the conservation message across has been the initial aim of the Stanislaw Sandblasters, an east central Alberta soil conservation group. The Sandblasters have erected signs to indicate their project locations and to promote local awareness.

Intense winds in the spring of 1988 blew a strong conservation message to farmers across the province. Blowing soil darkened daylight skies and the scenes were likened to the Dirty Thirties.

For a group of farmers in east central Alberta, those winds were a catalyst for action. "Our area was ravaged by intense winds which allowed the conservation message to come to the forefront," says Ron Hrudey.

"Tonnes of soil left this area forever. And the loss reoccurred in the winter and spring of 1989. Soil erosion can't be isolated to only those two years. Indications of it were here before, and it can be seen by the mounded soil banks on fence lines and severely eroded areas of cultivated fields," he says. Erosion is seldom so dramatic, more typically it's an ever present gradual problem.

(Cont'd)

Getting the message across (cont'd)

Hrudey farms near Mundare and was one of the founders of a conservation group christened the Stanislaw Sandblasters, named for a community northwest of Vegreville. Membership in the Stanislaw Sandblasters Conservation Society is from across the counties of Lamont, Two Hills and Minburn.

Since its initial meeting in October, 1988, the Sandblasters have stressed getting the conservation message to producers in the area says Hrudey. "We've attempted to present the agricultural community with basic information on soil management and simple methods to halt soil erosion.

"As Sandblasters, the message we want to get across is that we can't allow soil organic levels to drop below 50 per cent. We must stop our soils from eroding and we must stop our soil from further degradation.

"The next generation must be assured they will receive soil that is healthy, productive, well protected and will contain high nutrient levels. We think this can be accomplished through awareness."

The Sandblasters's accomplishments have already received provincial attention. In January, the society was honored as the first recipient of the provincial Group Conservation Award. Presented by the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) and the Western Producer, the annual awards will recognize leadership and innovation in soil conservation by an individual and a group.

One of the society's first communication tools was a newsletter. The first edition featured residue management, the simplest and cheapest form of conservation. Emphasis was placed on equipment choice, frequency of tillage operations and specific direction to maintaining 1500 to 1800 pounds of straw residue over the winter.

"This first message allowed us to address current conventional farming methods and how they encouraged continual erosion of our soil. By helping the producer select cheap alternative conservation farming methods using their existing equipment, we were able to help the farmer consider change," he says.

(Cont'd)

Getting the message across (cont'd)

Encouraging fellow producers to make changes was reinforced through general meetings on soil management. "We never had less than 50 people attend the meetings. The PFRA presentation gave the message that we have to be more cautious handling our soil and carefully detailed possible strategies. Producers were shown soil was no longer an unlimited resource warehouse and the remaining nutrients wouldn't last forever with present farming methods," says Hrudey.

Last August the Sandblasters hosted their first field day with assistance from area agricultural service boards. Equipment dealers and fertilizer company representatives were enlisted to provide displays.

Producers were shown conservation equipment such as wide blade narrow spaced cultivators, 3-in-1 applicators, shredders and spreaders, grass and forage equipment and a new line of cultivators that work at a more uniform depth.

Field demonstrations included chemical application as an alternative to cultivation in erosion prone soils, maintaining trash during summerfallow and green legume manure.

In conjunction with the field day, the society ran a photo contest. Winning photographs had to best demonstrate soil erosion in process. "Fantastic photos were received which not only demonstrated a severe erosion problem exists, but that it ranges well outside the area our society covers," he says.

The group has increased its profile with advertisements, stories, formal speaking engagements and signs. Large signs were erected on Secondary Highways 855 and 857, north of Vegreville and Mundare. Both say: "You are in a soil conservation awareness area and the health of the soil, fields and plants is in your hands."

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March 26, 1990
For immediate release

Partners in Conservation program thrives in Barrhead area

One of the greatest challenges agriculture faced as the 1980s waned will continue to concern the industry in the '90s: how to maintain and enhance profitability while sustaining production.

In the County of Barrhead, the agriculture service board has met that challenge with a program it calls "Partners in Conservation". The partners are as many and varied as the projects the program has undertaken.

"The partners provide expertise, funding, ideas, work, equipment and moral support," says Allan Macaulay, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist in Barrhead. Some of the partners include Alberta Environment, the on-farm water management steering committee, Ducks Unlimited, the Alberta Agriculture Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, the Northwest Peat Soils Association, Alberta Agriculture district, regional and conservation and development branch staff, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

Involving all three levels of government and their agencies, as well as other organizations, was an important goal when the program was set-up. "To make it fly we had to have everyone working together. That way our effort is total and not piecemeal," says Macaulay, who was one of the program's founders four years ago.

But, he says, perhaps the most critical ingredient in the partnership formula has been the local support. "Landowners are where our success starts. They have to think it's important to get involved, and we've had a lot of that kind of interest and then co-operation in projects.

"The program couldn't have achieved even a small degree of the success it's had without the full support of county councillors, county staff, the rate payers and all our co-operating farmers," says Macaulay.

(Cont'd)

Partners in Conservation projects are diverse. One example is an environmentally sensitive area study with a special emphasis on watersheds and soils. Its funding partners are the lands division of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, Alberta Agriculture and the County of Barrhead.

In co-operation with landowners and Fish and Wildlife, there is a habitat enhancement program. The program leases up to 1200 acres for periods of five years to enhance and maintain natural cover and conserve wildlife, soil and water. A joint water management project with the provincial on-farm water management steering committee is studying backflood projects and runoff with local landowners.

Herb Kloek, one of the Barrhead conservation partners looks across his riverbottom land on the Pembina southwest of Barrhead. Kloeck planted a conservation strip along the river to reduce erosion.

Shelterbelts can play a major role in conservation, so the county has enhanced its tree distribution program. Through the program, help is supplied to plant and maintain trees in over-cleared areas. Ginnala maple, mountain ash and Siberian crabs are used to both improve aesthetic appeal and to attract wildlife.

(Cont'd)

"We are strongly encouraging landowners to leave some blocks of natural trees and wetlands, instead of developing every acre," he says.

Elementary school students in the area also play a part in tree awareness. Every Arbor Day approximately 1,000 students take part in planting a tree. The activity stresses caring for the environment and trees, he says.

"We also encourage youth groups to study and report on wetlands and natural areas and to relate these areas interrelationships to the agricultural community," Macaulay adds.

Last year the Partners in Conservation program presented its first annual producer award. This award recognizes someone who has encouraged others to conserve limited natural resources and who operates a farming unit emphasizing sustainable and profitable farming techniques.

Information planning sessions are an important part of the Partners program, says Macaulay. "We have had many information sessions for councillors and producers, and always combine the attendance of our regional support group. We always solicit and value the input we get back from these sessions."

Looking to the future, he says he sees even more diversified activities. "And we're always looking for more people to get involved. Everyone is invited to become part of the conservation team. We work as a team and as such we move forward."

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March 26, 1990
For immediate release

Youth spreads conservation message

Recognizing awareness was a first step in finding solutions to the problem of misused resources, one young Albertan spread the conservation message in her community.

Carol Braat, of Coaldale, earned a provincial conservation award for her efforts. She was named the 1989 winner of the Grant MacEwan Conservation Award. Presented annually since 1975, the award salutes the 4-H conservation camper who best promotes conservation in the year after they attend the provincial camp.

"If there is one thing that I've learned, it's that our resources have to last forever. And forever seems like a quite a long time, so, we better start taking care of them today. Conservation is the only solution to this problem.

"Awareness is the first step, but action is the second. And through action, maybe together, we can solve yesterday's problem today for tomorrow," says the grade 12 honors student at Coaldale's Kate Andrews High School.

Braat's conservation efforts after attending the 4-H conservation camp in 1988 took many forms. With fellow conservation camper Annette Vanden Elzen, she constructed a display on the five types of conservation--soil, water, range, forest and fish and wildlife. The display was part of several local events.

"We all hear about a conservation movement from the media," she says, "But, by actually bringing the message directly to the community, people realize that it's not just an environmental or political problem, it's their problem."

That's the message she took to 4-H clubs and other community groups. Through Alberta Agriculture's Agricultural in the Classroom program, Braat also talked to grade four and five students about the ways agriculture and conservation affect them.

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Braat is still involved in spreading conservation awareness. Her most recent project included preparing and distributing place mats with the message: "Conservation in your hands can be as simple as developing a sense of responsibility and respect for nature or as significant as gaining an awareness." Local businesses sponsored the project.

The seven-year member of the Coaldale 4-H Swine Club has written articles for newspapers and magazines and also continues to speak to local clubs and groups.

Braat was born in Coaldale and lives on a farm south of the southern Alberta town. Primarily a purebred swine operation, the family farm also produces grain and beef cattle.

Alberta's 25th annual 4-H Conservation Camp will be held this July. About 60 young Albertans spend a week learning about soil, water, range, forest and fish and wildlife conservation at the Alberta Power and TransAlta Utilities sponsored camp.

When the conservation practice and management lessons are over, the delegates are encouraged to take the conservation message home and raise awareness in their own communities. The conservation camper who does the best conservation promotion receives the Grant MacEwan Conservation Award. The award is named for the former Alberta lieutenant-governor and lifelong conservation champion.

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Agri-News briefs

SPRING VACCINATION GOOD IDEA FOR CALVES AND HERD

Vaccinating beef cattle herds against clostridial diseases should be part of a cow calf operation's springtime activities says an Alberta Agriculture beef cattle veterinarian. Clostridial diseases are a group of bacterial diseases that includes blackleg, malignant edema and enterotoxemia. All have the potential to kill non-immune cattle says Casey Schipper, of the animal health division. Young calves must be vaccinated once in the spring at two to three months of age and again in the fall when they are selected as replacement breeding stock or enter the feed lot, he says. "Considering the low cost of the vaccine and high cost of cattle death, it would be well worth vaccinating the entire cow herd once every two years," he adds. For more information, contact Schipper in Edmonton at 436-9343.

MAKE EFFICIENT USE OF SNOW

Farmers can improve their crop yields by making efficient use of snow says a University of Alberta soil scientist. "Approximately 25 to 40 per cent of the annual precipitation on the Canadian prairies occurs as snowfall," says David Chanasyk. "Conservation and management of winter precipitation have the potential to improve crop yields if this precipitation can infiltrate." Farming for the Future conference delegates heard the researcher detail results from studies undertaken in the Peace River area since 1980. The experiments focused on using different cultivation techniques to reduce soil erosion and improve infiltration or the amount of water that goes into the soil. Among the findings: the largest annual sediment yields occurred under fallow, the smallest under fescue; total runoff was greater under fescue, least under fallow; under all treatments, 80 to 90 per cent of snowmelt water ran off; runoff can be reduced by cultivation and the sediment yield is higher from cultivated fields, thus farmers who cultivate fields in fall

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EFFICIENT USE OF SNOW (cont'd)

may increase soil water, although the increase likely wouldn't be large. For more information about this and other Farming for the Future projects, contact Alberta Agriculture's research division at 427-1956.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS THROUGH REDA

For the 29th year the Rural Education and Development Association is offering co-operative youth programs. Held in July and August, the seminars are offered for three different age groups. Teen seminars are for ages 13 and 14 and youth seminars for 15 to 17 year olds. A grad seminar is for ages 16 to 19 years who have attended a youth level seminar or similar program. Participants at teen and youth seminars learn leadership and community living skills. They also learn about co-operatives and agriculture's importance in Alberta. The grad seminar emphasizes life skills, including budgeting and money management and how to find a job or a place to live. Programs are held at the Goldeye Centre near Nordegg, Alberta. REDA welcomes participants to the program and participant sponsorship by organizations or individuals. If you are interested in attending, or would like to sponsor a youth to attend, telephone 451-5959 or write to REDA at 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9.

CHEMICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT VIDEO

"Big Fears, Little Risks (Chemicals in the Environment)" (VT 937-1) is a new video for loan from the Alberta Agriculture Film Library. The 30 minute video argues that trace elements of chemicals in the environment pose no danger to human health. World renowned experts on chemicals, cancer and the effects of poisons on the body are featured and say they believe lifestyle and not minute amounts of chemicals in the environment is behind most of today's cancers. Walter Cronkite hosts the 1989 American Council on Science and Health production. For more information, write the Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.